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Near East & South Asia

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Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi Withdrawal—The Iraqi Army will withdraw by 26 July from the five Iranian towns and three hamlets which it occupied during its advance in the central sector over the weekend, the Iraqi command announced in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The five towns are Qasr-e Shirin, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Gilan-e Gharb, Sumar, and Salehabad.

The withdrawal will prove the "sincerity" of Iraq's declaration that it does not covet Iranian land, the communique added. A military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio subsequently affirmed that Iraqi forces had withdrawn from Gilan-e Gharb and Salehabad as of 0800 GMT 26 July.

The Iraqi withdrawal announcements contrasted with Iranian claims that the Iraqis were being forced back by Iranian military action. According to IRNA and Tehran radio, the Iranians recaptured Salehabad and a garrison near Sar-e Pol-e Zahab in fighting 25-26 July. IRNA also accused the Iraqis of launching another attack in the central sector 26 July, stating that Iraqi troops occupied the towns of Eslamabad-e Gharb and Karand-e Gharb in Bakhtaran Province. Iranian forces drove the Iraqis out of Karand and prevented them from advancing west of Eslamabad, the agency said.

The Iraqi information minister denied the Iranian reports of a new Iraqi advance, stressing Iraq's adherence to its timetable for complete withdrawal, according to a statement broadcast by Baghdad radio. The capture of the two towns was instead claimed by the Iranian National Liberation Army (INLA), an Iraqi-backed Iranian opposition movement associated with the Mojahedin-e Khalq. Statements carried by INLA's clandestine Voice of Mojahed radio claimed that Eslamabad and Karand were "liberated" by INLA units, which received a "tumultuous welcome" from local inhabitants.

Reporting on other combat activity, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio announced that the Iraqi Navy carried out three missile attacks on the Nowruz offshore oil platforms and on a nearby oil well, "destroying their targets and setting them ablaze." The communique also stated that three Iranian jets were downed over the central sector of the battlefield. An F-5 and F-4 were reportedly hit by antiaircraft fire, while another F-5 was shot down by an Iraqi aircraft.

As for Iraqi losses, a military spokesman cited by INA denied Iranian claims that two Iraqi planes and one helicopter were downed, but he acknowledged that one Iraqi fighter plane crashed over Iranian territory. For Iran's part, IRNA stated that at least 26 Iranian women and children were killed or wounded in Iraqi air raids on villages in Bakhtaran 25 July.

Diplomatic Moves—A cease-fire agreement depends on a "comprehensive agreement between the two sides through direct negotiations" to implement UN Resolution 598, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz stressed in a 26 July statement to INA. Speaking before his departure for New York, 'Aziz maintained that Iran's rejection of direct negotiations "could practically mean a rejection of a comprehensive and lasting peace between the two countries." Emphasizing that direct negotiations are needed for a comprehensive peace agreement, 'Aziz warned Iran that it will be responsible for "all the consequences" of its stand.

Meanwhile, IRNA reported that Iranian officials welcomed the UN seven-member team which arrived in Tehran 26 July for a 3-day visit. The head of the UN team noted that its mission to Tehran and Baghdad is to explore ways and means for implementing and maintaining a cease-fire, the agency added. On the formation of a UN observer force to supervise a cease-fire agreement, both Italy and Yugoslavia agreed to participate in the unit, which is expected to comprise some 250 officers, according to ANSA and TANJUG reports.

Other Iranian, Iraqi Developments—In a speech reported by IRNA, Iranian Chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili claimed that Iraq's recent advances inside Iran were the result of chemical weapons (CW), which forced Iranian troops to withdraw from contaminated areas to minimize casualties. The Security Council's failure to condemn Iraq for its use of CW in Halabjah "gave Baghdad the go-ahead" to use CW against Iranian forces, he claimed.

The Iraqi advance proves that President Saddam Husayn is an untrustworthy "warmonger" whose "thirst for aggression and criminality is insatiable," Musavi-Ardabili contended. On Iran's decision to accept Resolution 598, he said this has "doubled" Khomeyni's popularity, and he called for a massive show of support for the imam in marches planned for 2 August.

Khomeyni himself appeared at a reception in his residence reported by Tehran television, but was not observed to speak.

In Iraq, a presidential decree cited by INA appointed RCC member Sa'dun Hammadi as minister of state for foreign affairs.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd told a group of Islamic personalities performing the pilgrimage he was "sorry" Iranians did not participate in this year's hajj, SPA reported. He said he

welcomed the Iranians but "certain circumstances" stemming from "responsible authorities" in Iran "obstructed" their attendance and Saudi Arabia "cannot interfere," SPA added.

Fahd's annual address to the pilgrims was read on radio and television, SPA noted. Fahd stressed the need to spread Islam via "scientific methods" and said Islamic teaching is not restricted to one group of people. He expressed "deep satisfaction" at the possible end to the Gulf war and called on the Lebanese people to "settle down" and the Afghan people to "achieve their independence."

Israel: Occupied Territories

The military authorities in the Gaza Strip released 147 administrative detainees and convicted prisoners as a "goodwill gesture" on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha, IDF radio reported. In an interview with Jerusalem radio, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin indicated that the move was in response to the relative calm in Gaza, where "violence has not increased the way it did in the areas of Nabulus, Janin, and Tulkarm."

Nevertheless, an IDF officer was wounded in the head by a stone in a Gaza refugee camp, and four other IDF soldiers were injured in a traffic accident when their vehicle was stoned in Gaza, according to Jerusalem television and IDF radio. An Israeli civilian was also injured in the head by a stone in the same area, Jerusalem radio noted. In the West Bank, an Arab villager was wounded by IDF gunfire near Ramallah, the radio disclosed.

Tunisia

The Chamber of Deputies approved constitutional amendments delineating the presidential term of office and line of succession, according to Tunis radio. The amendments stipulate that the president be chosen for a 5-year term in a "general, free, direct, and secret election" and that once elected he may "renew his nomination twice in succession," the radio reported.

The Chamber of Deputies speaker will assume presidential responsibilities should the elected president become incapacitated. Further amendments confirm the prime minister's control of day-to-day government operations and lower the age limit for deputies to 25 years, the radio added.

In a Republic Day address to the Chamber carried live by the radio, Ben Ali hailed the amended constitution as a "sound foundation" for the Republic. He called on the people to avoid "fanaticism" and "narrow-minded selfishness" and to unite to draw up a national charter as a "contract of honor and civilization" among parties. He announced an "extraordinary review" of electoral lists and a by-election to be held during this parliamentary year.

Egypt

Security forces stormed a Cairo apartment, killing an escaped prisoner convicted in connection with the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat, MENA stated. The police found plastic explosives and clothing the prisoners used in their escape, MENA added.

Afghanistan

A Foreign Ministry spokesman called Pakistani President Ziaul Haq's remarks on the Soviet troop withdrawal "baseless and false assertions," Kabul radio reported. Zia is trying to "create suspicion and doubt" about the USSR's intentions and to "find a pretext" for Pakistan's violation of the Geneva accords, the spokesman maintained.

Rebels are within 500 yards of downtown Qandahar and will "take the town in a few weeks" after the Soviet troop withdrawal is completed, according to a rebel military commander cited by AFP. Rebels captured three military installations in the Ghazni area, Islamabad radio noted. Afghan tanks fired at rebels after an attack from Pakistani territory near Chaman "prompting retaliation" by Pakistani artillery, AFP reported.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat Delivers 'Id al-Adha Message

JN2307194288 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1746 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Address by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, on the occasion of the Muslim festival of 'Id al-Adha—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Until the messenger and the believers who are with him say: When is God's victory? God's victory is at hand. [Koranic verses]

O masses of our great people; O comrades in the mighty revolutionary march; O our kinfolk standing fast inside the beloved homeland, Palestine; O our steadfast masses in the camps and in the diaspora:

In these blessed days, the days of the blessed 'Id al-Adha and the pilgrimage, I greet and salute you as you forge a miracle in your mighty uprising whose flames are growing daily and which is becoming more entrenched despite the enemy's ferocity and crimes. Revolutionary sacrifices are increasing through faith and strength.

I greet and salute you as you stand fast in the proud camps and confront the criminal aggression against them, at times by the Zionists and at other times by their agents. Increasing oppression is faced with increasing self- sacrifice.

I greet you and salute you, O masses of our people throughout the diaspora, as you firmly and strongly rally around your revolution so we can form together a united revolutionary fabric of the masses of our people wherever they may be, within and outside the homeland, thus becoming firmer and their faith becoming deeper, crushing all plots and defeating all plotters.

O my brothers, beloved, and kinfolk. The enemy thought the assassination of the beloved leader Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] would diminish the zeal of the revolution and the uprising. The mighty and blessed uprising is growing and it is taking root in the conscience and in the heart. Let the call go forth again and again: Welcome to struggle! Welcome to struggle! Welcome to struggle!

The enemy also thought by instigating his agents who are nesting within some adjacent Arab regimes to occupy the Shatila camp and to storm the Burj al-Barajinah camp, after inflaming the situation in them, and then threatening our camps in Sidon and Tyre—in implementation of the crime of the suspect agreement, the U.S.-Syrian agreement to strike at the PLO and to expel the Palestinians from Beirut and subsequently from all of Lebanon—that such crimes would have a negative impact on the march of the mighty uprising or would weaken it.

The enemy did not realize that our noble people generate energies and release further creative revolutionary potential, defying aggression and aggressors and firmly and strongly confronting the plot and the plotters. We said to him: Fear not; you are the uppermost. Cast down what is in your right hand and it shall swallow what they have fashioned. [Koranic verses citing God's words to Moses]

Blessed are you, O our great people. O blessed be your increasing contribution and your enormous sacrifices. Blessed be the blood shed in the plains, valleys, camps, towns, and villages irrigating the land with a flood of pure blood which never stopped during the mighty revolutionary march of our people.

Blessed be the hands that throw lava and stones at the heads of the enemies of our nation—lava and stones that turn into tornadoes and volcanoes that swallow and uproot this treacherous occupation. [passage omitted]

O brothers and beloved ones, the uprising of our people, whose 8th month we are living in these days, will strongly and faithfully enter its 9th month with God's care and help and with the arms of the heroes of our people and masses, who are recording these days in the annals of history, with letters of fire and light and through great sacrifices and strong will, this genuine and gigantic revolution of our people, who are using the most splendid forms of revolution with all faith, will, and resolution.

This uprising has confused the enemy on all levels, from the bottom to the highest echelon of leadership. In fact, the faithful arms have defeated this arrogant Israeli army. It is the third and most important war waged by the Palestinian David in which victory is being achieved over this obstinate enemy, beginning with the Beirut battle and the 88-day war, passing through the war of attrition in southern Lebanon side by side with our Lebanese allies, and ending with the blessed revolutionary prising of our people.

This uprising will inevitably continue until the end of the Israeli occupation of our territory, homeland, and sanctities. O brothers, it is time to pick fruit and the blood will not melt away uselessly. [passage omitted]

O brothers, the beloved ones, all my kinfolk, the heroes of Palestine, the women and men of Palestine, observe patience and stand fast because victory is very near. Have faith, because it is our way to achieve victory. Adhere to organization in all fields. Work in all fields and adhere to unity, because it is our unlimited spring to confront the enemies.

O my beloved ones, we are aware of the difficulties facing all of us. However, these difficulties will only strengthen our determination to pursue our march. Victory is our only option.

O brothers, at a time when we interact with the Arab resolutions [words indistinct]. We also win new friends every day. We gain friends in the socialist, nonaligned, Islamic, and African states and even in the European states and Japan and with the democratic and progressive Jewish forces inside and outside [the occupied territories] [words indistinct].

Our masses are also strengthening their determination to bolster the will of life in us and to achieve our national and inalienable rights, including our right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of our free independent state, until our flags fly high over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem. God willing. [passage omitted]

The good news of victory has emerged for us and for the entire nation with the beginning of the end of the Iraq-Iran war and the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598, including the significance of this on the ground and regarding the political map, not only in Palestine, but in the entire region.

Just as the Iranian, Iraqi, and Gulf states and peoples will enjoy peace, the Palestine question and the Palestinian people are optimistic about the end of this fierce war.

As a result of this war, the Palestine question and our Palestinian people have paid a dear price and suffered a great deal. During this war, during Iraq's preoccupation with this war, and in light of Camp David, the enemies and plotters attempted to deal separately with the Palestinian revolution and people. [passage omitted]

AL-ITTIHAD Cited on PLO-Romanian Contact

JN2207101588 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD has reported that Romania has begun urgent contacts with the PLO leadership and invited Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to visit Bucharest after the United States gave the green light to Romania to play a leading role in the contacts taking place concerning the situation in the occupied territory.

In its issue today, the newspaper quoted a prominent Palestinian source as saying that Romania urged Yasir 'Arafat and other Palestinian leaders to present specific proposals on achieving a solution satisfactory to all sides.

The source added that Romania offered three clauses for a plan which is currently being discussed. The clauses call for an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and certain parts of the West Bank under an agreement to be aproved by the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Abu Ghazalah Notes Italian Call for Maneuvers

NC2307054888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2141 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense, has announced that Italy has called for conducting joint military maneuvers with Egypt.

In a statement he made in Italy to the AKHBAR AL-YAWM newspaper, to be published Saturday [23 July], Abu Ghazalah said the request will be studied and a joint committee from both sides will prepare for the maneuvers. He pointed out that Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti had informed him of a proposal for a European initiative to resolve the Middle East problem after the failure of Shultz' initiative.

Speaker al-Mahjub Returns From Moscow 23 Jul

NC2307064388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0612 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jul (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub and his accompanying delegation returned to Cairo early this morning from Moscow following a 10-day visit at the invitation of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

Upon his arrival, Al-Mahjub stated that during his visit he met with a number of Soviet leaders, primarily Andrey Gromyko, president of the Supreme Soviet Presidium. They discussed bilateral ties and the means of developing them in various fields, international and regional issues of common concern, the Palestinian issue, the Iran-Iraq war following Iran's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 to end the war, and the situation in Afghanistan.

He noted that he conveyed a verbal message from President Mubarak to the Soviet leaders and that he is carrying a message from them to President Mubarak. He pointed out that he will brief President Mubarak on the outcome of his talks.

Foreign Ministry Source: PLO Relations 'Strong'

JN2307154288 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 22 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] Cairo—A responsible source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has stressed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that despite President Husni Mubarak's criticism of some Palestinian leaders during his speech on the anniversary of the 23 July revolution, Cairo's relations with the PLO are strong and were not affected by the statements that were made against the Egyptian stand. The source affirmed that the president's speech expressed blame rather than citing the existence of a crisis.

The source pointed out that Egypt's support for the PLO and the Palestine question is firm and principled and that it does not change as a result of this or that statement. The source said that there is a deep undestanding between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and President Mubarak, who expressed his appreciation for 'Arafat and his distinguished moderation and flexibility. The source said that the Egyptian leadership understands the nature of trends within the PLO. However, the source added that this does not prevent reaching an agreement among all these trends on a unified strategy to deal with the conflict with Israel.

The source revealed that a high-level Palestinian delegation will visit Cairo within the next few weeks and that this delegation could be led by Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] himself.

Diplomatic sources said that during his visit to Amman next Friday, Egyuptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid will discuss with his Jordanian counterpart Tahir al-Masri the possibility of reaching a new formula for an agreement between Jordan and the PLO on the basis of joint action to achieve a political settlement of the Palestine question, in addition to recent developments in the Gulf war and Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

PLO's Al-Surani on Cairo Ties, U.S. Policy

NC2407144188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani has affirmed that Egyptian-Palestinian relations have always been and still are good, even if occasionally marred by clouds. He added that the role played by President Mubarak and Egypt in support of the Palestinian cause is fundamental. He stressed that no agreement in the region can survive without Egypt, which is the center of balance in the region.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Al-Surani expressed hope that Egypt's return to its leading and prominent role would invigorate the Arab world, leading to the liberation of the occupied Arab territories. He also expressed hope that the new atmosphere prevailing in inter-Arab relations, as demonstrated by the restoration of relations between Egypt and Arab countries, the Palestinian uprising, the Moroccan-Algerian reconciliation, and the Iraqi victories in the Gulf war, would herald the Arab world's first step in the right direction.

Al-Surani emphasized that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories has been a strategic surprise not only to the United States, Israel, and international Zionism but also to the Arab states. [passage omitted]

Al-Surani criticized U.S. policy in the region and accused U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz of coming to the region to undermine the Palestinian uprising. He

also accused the United States of insincerity in its quest for peace, because in reality it is trying to force the Arabs to capitulate and give up their rights in favor of Israel.

Regarding Palestinian-Jordanian relations, Al-Surani said the PLO wishes to develop these relations, as it does with other fraternal countries, because this is a commitment by the PLO, an integral factor in PNC resolutions in various sessions, and an element of Palestinian strategy.

Al-Surani called for full coordination between the Palestinians and Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon in order to reach a unified stand on the international peace conference, once it is convened, so the conference can stress the need for the Palestinian people to return to their land.

Paper Urges ICO To Utilize Iran's Peace Move

NC2307061588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2158 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—The AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper calls on the ICO to benefit from the new atmosphere created by Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for halting the Iraq-Iran war. It urges the ICO to launch an Islamic initiative to heal the rift and restore solidarity to the Islamic ranks.

In its editorial to be published on Saturday [23 July], the paper says indications that the end is near of the Iraq-Iran war, which has claimed the lives of more than 1 million Muslim youths over 8 years, is the most significant news to be received by the Muslims who are now assembling at the chaste premises of 'Arafat in the greatest human gathering on earth.

The paper notes that Israel has understood the importance of Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 and formed a high-level committee to study the Iranian decision and its potential danger to Israel and its expansionist plan. The paper then asks: Does the Iranian decision not deserve an Islamic initiative by the ICO to discuss what is required from the Muslims and the Islamic leaderships and to see how this Iranian step can be utilized to heal the rift and restore Islamic unity to its optimum strength?

Papers Welcome Iranian Acceptance of 598

NC2407055988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jul (MENA)—In their editorials to be published tomorrow, Cairo papers express the hope that intensified international efforts will lead to a speedy implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to the Gulf war, which was issued more than a year ago and met with no serious action to implement it due to the Iranian Government's intransigence.

The AL-AKHBAR newspaper urges the international community not to waste the present opportunity to end the Iraq-Iran war as soon as possible after Iran's acceptance of the resolution, so that the world can catch its breath and turn its attention to other international problems. The paper says that the continuation of hostilities between Iraq and Iran is natural in the absence of definite measures to agree on a cease-fire.

Therefore, the paper adds, measures must be taken that would secure a cease-fire, silence the guns, and bring about negotiations aimed at restoring peace to that region, which has witnessed a tragedy for over 8 years now. In conclusion, the paper asserts that an expeditious implementation of Resolution 598 will expose the true nature of the Khomeyni regime's position toward peace and its response to the steps designed to restore calm and end the mutually destructive operations and bloodshed. The speedy implementation of the resolution will also provide an opportunity to eliminate the world tension resulting from the presence of warships and foreign fleets in the Gulf waters.

The AL-AHRAM newspaper says that Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 confirms that serious pressure forces have emerged as a result of the war which have succeeded in subjugating Iran's top leader Khomeyni, who said after Iran's acceptance of the resolution that his reluctant agreement to a cease-fire had been more bitter than taking poison. The paper notes that what happened in Iran resembles a silent internal coup, in which the prudent leaders gained control of the situation and imposed their will on all the opposing parties.

The paper refers to the radical and moderate wings of the Iranian regime and to the big powers' involvement in contacts and adventures to influence these wings, which cost these countries their reputations and considerable effort and money. The paper points out that only the escalation of the war and the continuous rush of human waves to the frontlines have proved beyond any doubt that combat operations will decide the fate of the internal [word indistinct], rather than external forces or maneuvers.

The paper points out that the true aim of Iran's leaders, who kept the war going for 8 years, was to bring down the Iraqi regime by creating a gap between its leadership and its combatant force. However, the paper adds, the course of fighting defeated and transferred this goal to the Iranian arena, which disintegrated completely. After the recent developments, it is evident that in Iran a serious protest against the war defeats affected the responsible leadership, divested it of its sanctity, and forced it to yield to the protesters' demands.

In conclusion, the paper notes that the current developments herald more dangerous movements, that changes might occur in which some leaders may fall or be ousted, and that perhaps new faces and policies may emerge.

For its part, the AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper says that the efforts being exerted to reach a truce in the Gulf war are still drawing much of the world public's attention, especially after both Iraq and Iran officially agreed to send their foreign ministers to New York to meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to negotiate the implementation of Resolution 598.

The paper describes the intense fighting in the Gulf, particularly by the Iraqi side, since Iran's acceptance of the resolution, as a message sent to prove Baghdad's utmost vigilance in thwarting any Iranian maneuvers. This, the paper adds, will put Iraq in a better position to restore all its rights when the final negotiations begin, and will achieve a stronger peace in the Gulf.

The paper notes that Iraq has been able to raise high the banner of Arabism and that Iraq's heroic men have proved to the entire world that the Arabs are capable of recovering their rights by force and of confronting conspiracies and intrigues. This Iraqi victory, the paper adds, is at the same time an Arab victory to which the Arab nation contributed by providing fraternal Baghdad with support and assistance. The paper concludes by saying that the whole region is entering a new stage that requires further coordination and cooperation in order to achieve the higher Arab interest.

AL-AKHBAR Says Israel Fears End to Gulf War

NC2407202188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has reiterated that Israel is the only party which stands to lose from Iran's acceptance of the UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for a halt to the Gulf war.

In its commentary which will appear tomorrow, AL-AKHBAR points out that the Iranian decision adversely affects the Israeli strategy concerning this war, which Tel Aviv has largely exploited by either selling or smuggling arms to the Tehran rulers. The paper adds that Israel wishes to exploit the fighting in the Gulf to destroy the Iraqi war machine, whose tremendous capabilities have been unveiled by the war and are so great as to endanger Israel's security should the fighting between Baghdad and Tehran come to halt.

The paper alludes in this regard to Israeli Foreign Minister Peres' acknowledgment of this fact when he announced that the cessation of fighting between Tehran and Baghdad would constitute a threat to Israel should the two states decide to direct their force and stockpile materiel against it. This, according to Peres, would enable Iraq to play a greater role in Arab world affairs.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR affirms that the Arab world should be alert to new Israeli designs aimed at confronting the consequences of a halt of the Gulf war, should it actually occur.

Implementation of Investment Law Described

PM2607092588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jul 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Crisis of Investment Companies Entered Phase of Relaxation"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Egyptian Government has decided to provide the investment companies with important facilities so they can operate in numerous profitable joint enterprises, thus giving companies that will adjust their operations according to the new law a distinctive position in the Egyptian economy.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi held a number of meetings with the chiefs of the investment companies, which resulted in joint agreements that will be announced after the blessed 'Id al-Adha holiday.

Meanwhile, the investment board in Egypt has decided to provide a substantial opportunity to the investment companies to establish enterprises in free zones in order to achieve quick circulation of capital and realize maximum profits and benefits for investors in this sector.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that negotiations with most investment companies ended with an unexpected degree of success, thus prompting the establishment of a joint fund with a number of companies to secure a cash flow that will meet any requests for withdrawal of deposits.

It has been agreed that the government and Egyptian banks should help the companies adjusting their positions to get through the transitional stage of implementing the law without suffering any shocks.

Important sources in the investment companies have indicated that the negotiations held before the issuance of the regulations have achieved their objectives, and that important developments have occurred, as a result of which most companies are now satisfied with the law and the regulations on implementation.

Next week the stock exchange board will hold complementary negotiations with the companies that have decided to adjust their positions; these will be provided with important facilities for their operations.

An official source at the Economy Ministry stated that the law and the regulations will be implemented fully and there will be no retreat from applying the law, both in letter and in spirit. But this does not mean that the state is against the companies. The state is working to achieve the economic objectives and prevent the depositors' funds from being wasted.

The source said that if these companies agree to the law and are committed to implementing it, all the state organs will support them and provide them with every possible facility to enable them to operate and make a profit, thus preserving the rates of profit and incentives for both the depositors and shareholders of the companies at this stage, especially as there are numerous areas in the Egyptian economy which could realize substantial profits.

6-Month Increase in Commodity Exports Reported

JN2507152888 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 23 Jul 88 p 9

[Text] Egyptian commodity exports during the first half of the fiscal year 1987-1988 have amounted to 1.9 billion pounds, an increase of 78.5 percent compared with the same period the previous year. The Central Bank data shows that agricultural exports totaled 150.5 million pounds, cotton exports 93.6 million pounds, and agricultural [as published] exports 1.5 billion pounds.

Briefs

New Canadian Envoy

Cairo, July 22 (MENA)—Canada has nominated Marc Brault as its new ambassador to Egypt. He will succeed Marc Perron, who left here this morning for home after ending his term of duty as Canada's ambassador here. Brault was the Canadian foreign under secretary for Africa and Middle East affairs. [Text] [*NC2207130888 Cairo MENA in English 1245 GMT 22 Jul 88*]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Cables Arabs on U.S. 'Provocation'

LD2507195888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1735 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Jul (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has sent the following message to Arab kings and presidents:

At a time when Israel has intensified its oppressive occupation over our people in Palestine, the U.S. Government is carrying out an extremely scornful, utterly shameless provocation. It has ordered its 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean—originally designated to support the occupation of Palestine—to land thousands of Marines in the Arab land of Palestine.

It has ordered them to carry out open maneuvers to support the Israeli occupation army and its usurper entity, to terrorize our Palestinian people, and to reaffirm scorn for all Arabs from the ocean to the Gulf.

For the sake of supporting and protecting the Israelis, the United States does not give a damn about those who erroneously believe the United States is the Arabs' friend.

Brothers, we need to reconsider everything that ties us to the United States, the source of support for aggression on our safety and our people. We must prove that its reckless bias will cause it to suffer heavy losses at the hands of those whom it has scorned before the world.

[Signed] Your brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

Al-Qadhdhafi Reportedly Dismisses Soldiers

JN2507150588 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 24 Jul 88 p 2

[By Faruq 'Abd al-Mun'im]

[Text] A responsible source in the National Front for the Salvation of Libya has told AL-AKHBAR that Al-Qadhdhafi recently dismissed 350 officers and more than 4,000 NCO's from the Libyan Armed Forces as part of his attempt to liquidate any nationalist elements within their ranks.

The source added that Al-Qadhdhafi has formed a committee under intelligence officer Colonel Faraj al-Khudayri for this purpose.

Morocco

King Hassan II Grants Pardons to Prisoners

LD2407215188 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, the Ministry of Justice has issued the following announcement:

His dignified majesty, our master—may God make his glory and victory permanent—has graciously ordered pardons for what remains of prison and detention sentences for 274 prisoners; the reduction of prison or detention sentences for 56 detainees; pardons for prison sentence while keeping the fines for 32 persons; pardons for prison and detention sentences for 10 people; pardons of fines for 8 people; and a reduction of life imprisonment to set imprisonment terms for 3 prisoners. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Company With Guinea Formed

Rabat, July 21, (MAP)—Morocco and Guinea concluded Wednesday in Rabat a document on setting up a joint transports venture; the "Guinean and Moroccan Transports Company" (GUIMAT). The signing ceremony was co-chaired by Minister of Transports Mohamed Bouamoud and his visiting Guinean peer Facine Toure. Under the document signed Wednesday, Morocco will dispatch experts to Guinea next August to study the situation of urban transports there determine the sector's needs. [sentence as received] Guinea's share will represent 60 percent of GUIMAT's capital while 40 per cent will be provided by the Moroccan African

Automobile Industry Company (SAIDA). It will specialize in the transports of people and merchandise in Guinea and between Guinea and both Sierra Leone and Liberia. The agreement provides for supplying vehicles assembled in Morocco, spare parts and Moroccan technical assistance to Guinea. It is part of the activities of the Moroccan-Guinean Agency for Coopereation created in 1984 to coordinate and supervise bilateral cooperation programs. [Excerpts] *[LD2207031788 Rabat MAP in English 1208 GMT 21 Jul 88]*

Tunisia

President Addresses Chamber of Deputies 25 Jul

LD2507154888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0902 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Speech by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the 25 July Chamber of Deputies session—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Mr Speaker, honorable deputies, honorable guests, citizens: On this memorable day that we celebrate with dignity and pride, the anniversary of an event that is one of the most important events in our country's history, the anniversary of the proclaiming of the Republic, I am pleased to extend to all Tunisians my warmest congratulations and best wishes.

The importance of this event in the history that began 31 years ago lies in the fact that it came about as an embodiment of the masses distinguishing the struggle of the Tunisian people in all their factions and forces during their long militant march. It perpetuated the principles of freedom and equality for which the Tunisian people have given thousands of its sons under the leadership of blessed men, who succeeded one another in leading the national movement, which had gone back and forth, one generation after another.

Thus, the republican system is a cherished achievement embodying the loyalty of Tunisians to everyone who struggled and fought and who was martyred for the cause of delivering the country from foreign yoke and absolute government and for restoring sovereignty to the people. It is also an enormous responsibility and a permanent trust in the hands of all Tunisians, over the years and successive generations.

Ladies and gentlemen, the republican system's main supporting idea is that of recourse to the people, who are the ones who decide all major issues and who make all the decisions that affect their life and destiny. It is a system that is built on the basis of rejecting personal rank and autocracy and on providing sound foundations for determining who will assume high office in the country.

Proceeding from these considerations, we wanted to have our celebration of this anniversary—the first in the new era—to sign before you the amendment to the Constitution. The country's Constitution upheld these principles in its original form. It was supposed that they would be strengthened and that the people would implement them, but the reality of what the country had gone through contradicted this.

Indeed, the basis of the original Constitution was replaced with rules that contradicted the spirit and the principles of the republican system. The presidency, which is the highest and the greatest position in the state, was turned into a life presidency. Succession became automatic, which obliterated an essential part of the republican and populist system.

In view of the great importance of this matter, in the interests of proper conduct of state affairs, and of ensuring the stability of constitutional institutions and raising them above narrow-minded calculations and personal whims, we have hastened, since the change, to take steps to amend the Constitution as an important part of implementing the principles of the 7 November declaration.

This amendment has come after broad-based consultations by various intellectual groups in the country. It restored to the republican system its main base by introducing new provisions in accordance with its concepts and requirements, the balance of [word indistinct] and adopting the principle of going to the people when the presidency becomes vacant, instead of automatic succession; and the objective conditions were restored that must be provided by the candidate, whether concerning age or political dynamism or the deep-rooted belonging to the homeland.

They all seek to make the man who bears the greatest responsibility of the state a source of confidence and assurance, an element of stability in the country.

This amendment, therefore, though it might appear partial, is one that is far-reaching in its essence, going beyond ordinary amendments or technical adjustments. In doing so, we have restored to the Republic its respect, taking it back to its origin.

Ladies and gentlemen, no matter how important and how necessary the change has been, its embodiment in national reality remains linked to the extent of our commitment and determination to respond to it and to behave in accordance with its requirements. This requires many conditions, the most important of which is a radical change of mind so that the public interest always remains the main criterion for citizens in appraising and making choices in all fields.

This applies to all actions and to electing officials at all levels, avoiding fanatacism in any form as well as automatic loyalty, putting an end to narrow-minded selfishness. Among these conditions are also rallying of all

ideological factions, political and social groups, around firm principles that form the center of accord and respect among them. Caring for and defending them should be a common duty of all.

In this framework comes our initiative for inviting the drawing up of a national charter, which all national dynamic forces would participate in drafting. This charter should take into account all ideological, political, and social trends in the country.

We believe the charter, which we want to be a contract of honor and civilization between all parties, will be the most effective factor in creating a favorable climate for our Tunisian society to become truly coordinated and in harmony with the values and principles that Tunisians have accepted. We would thus prove ourselves worthy of the republican system and democratic behavior under the principles of freedom, order, and respect for the rule of law. We all want this to be our state.

Ladies and gentlemen, on this occasion, in consolidation of the national charter and in consolidation of the bases of harmony among all Tunisians, we have decided on a series of steps aimed at pardoning many of those accused in political cases and at settling the legal status of a great number of those tried for their political activities in the past.

This decision, which covers citizens having different intellectual and political leanings, is for restoring the loyalty between Tunisians and their homeland and enabling them freely and sincerely to participate, within the law, in establishing the new Tunisia and consolidating the institutional state.

We are confident that this decision, which stems from the sincere democratic tendency that we have followed since the 7 November change, will increase the consolidation of the national charter, which is the pillar of democratic life.

I would like to take this opportunity to call on the sons of our dear homeland to turn the pages of the past and to build the future enthusiastically. This will come only through serious work by all Tunisians, stemming from love of the homeland, to protect it; from a commitment to the public good.

Today, we sign the law amending the Constitution that was announced from this same platform. It is from here that we read the 7 November statement on commencing the national referendum to prepare the charter. This happened after we provided the necessary bases for it, especially amending the Constitution, issuing the political parties law and reviewing the press and societies law; after creating the suitable conditions for it by restoring unity to the trade union movement, tying the connection with the existing parties, consulting the various opinions, leanings, and other initiatives that come under the consecutive reforms we are carrying out in all fields to create the developed political and social atmosphere needed by the country to resume its political and social progress and to continue its economic development.

Ladies and gentlemen, the importance of the change we are about to make necessitates commitment and the avoidance of rashness that might lead to a relapse, the repercussions of which cannot be estimated. Since the change is not, in our belief, a slogan without substance or action for the sake of appearance, we should all rise to the level demanded by the spirit of responsibility.

There is no legitimacy for rule that is not supported by the authority of the people, or a rule where those who manage the affairs of the people are not chosen by free and direct election. Within this framework, a review of the election laws becomes necessary. We insisted on consulting all sections of society on this matter, and we derived a series of options that we think honestly secure the representation of society's effective and vital forces, according to their weight, role, and importance in the national arena.

Honesty and responsibility demand that we be frank with each other, because everyone knows the difficulties that might face us in organizing free, independent general elections. However, these problems do not weaken our will and do not make us change the course we have chosen for our country. In order to be able to list these difficulties and define them so as to deal with them successfully and firmly, it would be better to hold legislative by-elections.

To achieve this goal, we will invite government members who are also deputies to dedicate themselves completely to their governmental tasks, this in addition to the possible vacancies in the House of Deputies as a result of appointing some deputies to other positions or of some abandoning their responsibilities.

Since these are only by-elections, they will be extremely indicative of the credibility of the democratic course. Therefore, I will personally monitor this process carefully and accurately. The principle is consecrating the people's authority and the independence of the elections. I would like to declare clearly and loudly that from now on there will be no falsification of the people's will, and we are committed to deter any violation of this.

We will issue our orders for an extraordinary review of the electoral lists beginning next November and for the holding of these by-elections during the parliamentary year 1988/89 according to the current law so we will be able clearly to see the points of weakness and faults that should be rectified in the text and application of the elections law in preparation for a general legislative election.

Ladies and gentlemen, we will face many difficulties in what we are about to undertake. However, our response to the call of duty, and our reliance on the vital forces in

our country and on the powers of giving are what strengthens our will to proceed in materializing the civilized project agreed on by all Tunisians.

Today, more than at any previous time, we are incited to unite our efforts and close ranks in harmony and reconciliation to achieve the desired goals. We hope God's words—they believe in God and the last day; they endorse what is right, and forbid what is wrong; and they hasten in good works; they are in the ranks of the righteous—apply to us. God has spoken the truth. Peace be on you.

President Pardons Political, Other Prisoners

LD2207132288 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] On the occasion of 'Id al-Adha and Republic Day, President Zine El Abidine issued an order to grant presidential pardon to 752 people sentenced for crimes against public rights and to 180 people sentenced in the following political cases: The Tunisian students rally [as heard], the Arab Nationalist Grouping, the Communist Youth Federation, the Rally and Ba'th, the Tunisian Worker's Movement, the Yusifist Movement, the 1962 plot, the Gafsa incidents, and the Islamic Tendency Movement.

This decision, raised to the level of a general legislative pardon, includes situations and cases concerning the early years of independence and includes all political or ideological trends. Its purpose is to strengthen harmony and national reconciliation among all Tunisians and is an embodiment of the democratic path along which the country has been moving since 7 November.

During a working session held at the Republican Palace, Carthage, attended by the prime minister, the minister of state for justice, and other senior Interior Ministry officials, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali decided that 1075 people, including 60 trade unionists, convicted of political crimes and crimes against public rights, should regain their rights.

Libyan Envoy Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message

LD2207135388 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. The message was conveyed to him this morning by 'Abd al-'Ati al-Ubaydi, the Libyan Jamahiriyah's representative at the Arab League in Tunis. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche.

'Abd al-'Ati al-Ubaydi said that the message concerned the excellent relations between the two fraternal countries, the situation in the Arab Maghreb region, and Arab issues in general. He said: I received a full response from the president.

Briefs

Soviet Fertilizer Agreement

Salah Jebali, secretary of state for energy and mines at the National Economy Ministry, and Anatoliy Kozhevnikov, Soviet first deputy minister of mineral fertilizer production, have signed the minutes of their joint talks. Salah Jebali and the Soviet official have also signed a long-term agreement until 1999 in the field of phosphatic fertilizers and chemical substances. [Text] *[LD2207051088 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Jul 88]*

Kuwait

Editorial Urges Security Council Action on 598

JN2307195488 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 22 Jul 88

[Editorial: "The Post-Decision Phase"]

[Text] We do not think Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598 a tactical move, since Iran's domestic circumstances dictate otherwise, given the long years of war and the devastating effects it has had on the various aspects of the country's life. Before Iran made its decision there had been signals pointing in that direction. Iran was hard put to maintain large numbers of troops at the front.

Hence, Iran's acceptance of the resolution was dictated by military considerations as well as the political ones. Supposedly Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 should be uppermost on the agenda of the UN secretary general. He should now be addressing the prospects for a cease-fire, a disengagement of forces, and the deployment of observers to stabilize the military situation and ensure that hostilities are not resumed.

It is now important that international efforts be directed toward promoting a political solution to the conflict and that the UN Security Council make prompt moves on behalf of enforcing the resolution in all its aspects as a first step to a comprehensive solution. Iranian statements indicate that their decision is irreversible, thus making it necessary that the new situation be made the best of. The end of the Iraq-Iran war is now a reality, as Iran's interests will not be advanced by resumed fighting. Nor is Iraq interested in fighting fresh battles unless the Iranians show signs of re-igniting the front.

The ball is now in the court of the Security Council and Perez de Cuellar, as the UN body enjoys the trust of both Iran and Iraq and shoulders the responsibility for implementing Resolution 598 in its proper sequence. The resolution must be approached as an indivisible whole. Hopefully the Security Council will prove up to the hopes pinned on it. Any miscalculation or laxity in implementation will serve to bring on an unwanted relapse. It serves the interests of both sides that land, sea, and air hostilities be brought to an end.

It also serves the interests of the Gulf countries that they rebuild their bridges and reopen contacts with Iran as well as explore Tehran's political intentions in the post-war era. Further, it serves the interests of the nations maintaining a naval presence in the Gulf to take a second look at their involvement, given the desire of the regional powers to see tension scaled down and the area gradually move to definitive peace.

Saudi Arabia

King, Crown Prince Issue Address to Pilgrims

LD2507142888 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Muna [no date as received]—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, have warned the Islamic nation against the dangers of the consecutive events, stormy waves, and escalating challenges that are increasing day by day and year by year.

In the annual address to the pilgrims, read on radio and television today by Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir, they stressed the need to double the efforts to spread the Islamic call through scientific methods, explaining the concepts of the Islamic faith and its high purposes that are aimed at the good of all mankind

The custodian of the two holy mosques and the crown prince pointed out that the teachings of Islam are not restricted to one group of people, and they also stressed that Islam calls for all virtues and forbids all evils and vices. They reviewed the collection of characters that Islam calls for and that Islam warns against.

The custodian of the two holy mosques and the crown prince reviewed the basic issues over which the Islamic nation still suffers, especially the Palestinian issue, the Iraq-Iran war, Lebanon, and the Afghan people's struggle.

They discussed the Kingdom's role in serving the two holy mosques and its commitment to protect God's sanctuaries and to provide all pilgrims with every means of convenience, security, and confidence.

Here is the text of the address by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and National Guard commander, to the pilgrims. [passage omitted]

Brother pilgrims, on a similar day a few years ago we said that the Iraq-Iran war, which began on 4 September 1980, has severely wounded the Islamic nation.

The blood has poured from the ribs for 8 years from the thousands of sons of the Islamic nation who died in this war, and because of the destruction it did to the vital commercial, industrial, and economic abilities of both countries.

As you know, the whole Islamic world, indeed the whole world, tried to end this war by any means to save innocent lives and spare Muslim blood.

Iraq responded to the peace calls, good offices, and regional and Arab initiatives. This was crowned by the Iraqi declaration accepting the UN Security Council resolution. We all waited hopefully for a similar response by Iran, until we heard a few days ago, on 18 July, the declaration by the UN secretary general that, on the basis of a written message by the Iranian president, Iran had officially accepted UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

In light of this, Saudi Arabia at that time expressed its deep satisfaction with Iran's response. Every Muslim, every Arab, and every peace-loving person in the world was deeply satisfied.

Today, as we welcome the restoration of peace to the Arabian Gulf region, we stress the commitment of Saudi Arabia to the spread of security and stability between the two Islamic neighbors, Iraq and Iran, through peaceful negotiations that preserve the rights of both countries in a permanent peace based on understanding and neighborliness.

On the painful bleeding Lebanon issue, brothers, we can still see that the Lebanese people are continuing the sad, severe suffering that has gone on since 1975 until now; and that the war has destroyed the Lebanese youth, broken the features of Lebanese civilization, burned the factories and storage places, and annihilated most Lebanese wealth in the most appalling civil war in modern history. The Israeli enemy has found a golden opportunity and hurried to usurp and squander the economic and agricultural wealth of south Lebanon, dispersed the sons of the south and burned their possessions in an attempt to divert the rivers to the Palestinian occupied territories.

Brothers, Saudi Arabia, despite all its continuing efforts to rescue Lebanon from its crisis in all human, international, and Arab political fields, would like on this great occasion to renew its appeal to the sons of the Lebanese people, from all sectors and parties, to unite to preserve Lebanon as a single, independent, united country in both people and land, so that they are able later on—and we will be with them—to reconstruct Lebanon on well-established foundations of cooperation and understanding among all sectors and sections.

If there is anything to be said to our Lebanese brothers, and we have said it repeatedly on many occasions, it is that we confirm our complete confidence in the Lebanese people's ability to heal their wounds and close ranks; they are the best ones to draw up the formula that would lead to their salvation from this crisis, which has lasted 14 years.

After this bitter experience, the Lebanese leaders should now follow the right way, and Lebanese citizens should now settle down and take comfort after this long suffering.

Dear brothers, our brother struggling Muslim people in Afghanistan are about to harvest the fruits of their struggle, after a fight of several years. Now the Afghan people will have the right to determine their own destiny and achieve their independence. We have great hope in the wisdom and good behavior of the Afghan people's leaders to reach the desired results. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Interviewed on Hajj, Arms

LD2607082188 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 20 Jul 88 pp 12-13

[Interview with Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Saud by 'Abd al-Rahman al-Rashid; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] AL-MAJALLAH: How is the operation of maintaining security of the pilgrims to the holy places proceeding so far, at the entry points to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as inside the holy places?

Prince Nayif: Everything is proceeding well, thank God. Nothing unusual worth mentioning has happened. [passage omitted]

AL-MAJALLAH: It has been rumored that the Kingdom has foiled the entry of Iranians carrying forged passports who tried to mingle with the pilgrims. How true are these rumors?

Prince Nayif: No such thing has happened to date.

AL-MAJALLAH: Have any Iranians come for the pilgrimage this year despite the fact that Khomeyni has prohibited Iranians from performing the pilgrimage, the fifth duty of Islam, in protest against the resolutions adopted by the Islamic states at the conference held in Jordan?

Prince Nayif: A limited number of Iranian pilgrims have actually arrived in Saudi Arabia and they are performing their pilgrimage rites in peace and security just like all other pilgrims to the holy places. [passage omitted]

AL-MAJALLAH: Do you believe that Iran is serious in its repeated threats, and are Saudi planes and embassies sufficiently protected?

Prince Nayif: We do not know quite how serious these threats are at present, but we do take them into consideration in our general security arrangements.

AL-MAJALLAH: In view of the so-called "reasonable" Iranian reaction to the U.S. Administration after the downing of the civil airliner in the Gulf, do you see any change in the course of Iranian demagogic diplomacy?

Prince Nayif: Let us hope that this is a first step toward rationalism. We believe it is too early to judge the inclinations of Iranian diplomacy after the recent developments.

AL-MAJALLAH: To what extent is Iran likely to exploit the Kingdom's open borders with some GCC states by sending its agents to the Kingdom or undermining the GCC's successful visa abolition experiment?

Prince Nayif: That is a possibility, but we hope that the GCC states' security cooperation and the alertness of their security services and public would abort any such attempt.

AL-MAJALLAH: The Saudi Kingdom's defensive arms deal with Britain came soon after the Chinese missiles deal, giving rise to rumors that the Kingdom has finally turned away from the U.S. market for its defense purchases. How true is that?

Prince Nayif: This question should have been addressed to Second Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Aviation, and Inspector General His Highness Prince Sultan Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz but, with his permission, I will try to answer it since this is a matter related to the Kingdom's clear and consistent policy.

You know that what determines the types and quantities of arms purchases are the actual, well-studied needs of the Saudi Armed Forces. Once these defense requirements have been specified, we try to acquire them from the traditional sources including, of course, the United States. If the other side has the right equipment and is willing to supply it to the Kingdom without any political or other conditions, then we make a final decision to buy it.

If it becomes impossible for the Kingdom to buy, if political conditions unacceptable to us are imposed, or if the commodity is overpriced, then the Kingdom tries to meet its defense needs from other sources, while at the same time appreciating the circumstances of the other side. That way we are sure of getting what we want on terms that suit our independent decisionmaking. As I have said, this is the Kingdom's consistent policy and there is no truth in the claim that the Kingdom has finally stopped defense purchases from the United States.

Interior Minister Says Hajj 'Successful'

LD2607091988 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of the interior, has asserted that this year's hajj was successful thanks to Almighty God's grace and care which enabled the Muslims as a whole to perform this Islamic duty.

He added in a news statement today that the efforts of the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his faithful crown prince as well as those of sincere men and all of the Saudi people allowed the pilgrims to God's holy house to perform this religious duty in security and tranquility. This was achieved, praise be to God.

In reply to a question on allegations that demonstrations had taken place in Mecca this year, his highness said: I think these reports, first and foremost, demonstrate contempt for the people and Muslims because they are asserting something which did not take place. To prove this, there are the pilgrims to the house of God in Mecca who can say the truth.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Receives PLO's 'Arafat 25 Jul

JN2507123288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] In the presidential palace at noon today, Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces.

He briefed the brother secretary general on the latest developments in occupied Palestine against the backgrounddrop of the intensified popular revolution against the Zionist entity and the oppression and aggression as well as terrorist practices to which the Palestinians are being subjected. They also reviewed Arab developments, notably the Iraq-Iran war following Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. The leaders expressed their welcome for this encouraging Iranian step and support for all of the efforts to end the destructive war.

Brother 'Arafat congratulated 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on his re-election as president and commander in chief for another term. The secretary general for his part reiterated the YAR's principled stand in support of continuing Palestinian struggle and the revolution in the occupied land until all of the rights of the Palestinian goals are realized including the establishment of a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil led by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves for New York Negotiations

JN2607084288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Baghdad for New York today.

Answering an INA question on Iraq's stand toward the negotiations to be held in New York, the foreign minister said: The purpose of the talks is to reach a quick and comprehensive agreement on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and consequently achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace. This requires direct negotiations between the two sides under the auspices of the UN secretary general.

Replying to another question on Iran's stand toward this formula, the foreign minsiter said: Iran's rejection of direct negotiations could practically mean a rejection of a comprehensive and lasting peace between the two countries, and a rejection of the objective of Resolution 598—to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran and in the Arabian Gulf region.

The foreign minister warned Iran against refusing to respond to this logical approach and held it responsible for all the consequences of its stand.

Answering a question on how Resolution 598 will be implemented, the foreign minister said: Since the issuance of the resolution over a year ago, Iraq has insisted on implementing the resolution in accordance with its operational clauses.

This implementation is in harmony with the text and objectives of the resolution and the practical guarantee to achieve lasting and comprehensive peace. We should reach an integrated agreement in New York on implementation of the resolution—an agreement that would accurately define the two sides' commitments.

Answering a question on whether the talks in New York will result in setting a date for a cease-fire, the foreign minister said that a cease-fire agreement depends on a comprehensive agreement between the two sides through direct negotiations to implement the resolution.

Regarding the Iranian officials' statements on recent developments on the front, the foreign minister said that these statements show the contradiction in their stands. He added: Sometimes they say that they seek a lasting peace, and another time they make statements on buildup and mobilization in order to continue the war.

He added that these contradictions in the statements of the Iranian officials confirm the need for caution and the need for demanding definite and comprehensive guarantees from them under the supervision of the UN secretary general and Security Council, so that they would not back away from their agreement—as they are accustomed to.

Therefore, it is absolutely incorrect to be hasty in taking any tangible step before knowing the intentions of the Iranian side very accurately and comprehensively, and before confirming them.

King Husayn Praises President on 'Victories'

JN2207161088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has telephoned his brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who early this morning telephoned the president.

The telephone conversation dealt with the splendid victories scored by our Armed Forces in liberating our national soil from the filth of the scoundrel Khomeyniites. His Majesty King Husayn congratulated President Saddam Husayn on these great victories and reaffirmed that sisterly Jordan—king, government, and people—stand by the side of Iraq in its just battle to defend Iraq and the Arab nation's dignity.

Foreign Ministry Responds to Sudanese Charges

JN2307204088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—An Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman has made a statement expressing his amazement at accusations leveled by the Sudanese Government against an employee of our Khartoum Embassy. Following is the text of the statement:

On 21 July 1988, the Sudanese Government issued an official statement including charges based on doubts and suspicions, as the statement put it.

The Iraqi Government, which had not expected such behavior from an Arab country, especially under such circumstances, voices its surprise at bringing up an old matter. The Iraqi Government is very surprised that the Sudanese Government has taken this postion, which marks a serious precedent in inter-Arab relations since it is based on mere doubts and suspicions.

This groundless accusation potentially encourages threats to our diplomatic missions in Khartoum and elsewhere. We hold the Sudanese Government responsible for any consequences.

We stress that these charges are unacceptable and baseless and that they have been fabricated for political motives by certain parties within the Sudanese Government who are known for their suspect contacts with the Khomeyni regime.

INA learned that the Foreign Ministry has decided to urgently summon Iraq's ambassador in Khartoum.

Hammadi Named State Minister for Foreign Affairs

JN2507155188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1536 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—It was announced here today that RCC Member Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has been appointed minister of state for foreign affairs.

This was announced in a presidential decree issued here today.

INA Cites Iranian Officers on Gulf War

JN2407150288 Baghdad INA in English 1427 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Names of captured Iranian officers as received]

[Text] Baghdad, July 24, INA—A number of Iranian officers captivated [as received] by Iraqi forces recently agreed that the Iranian people "refuse to respond to calls made to them to join war fronts...for the war is useless," they noted.

Lieutenant Colonel Hamid 'Abdullah Shabastari, commander of a brigade of the 92nd Division, said recent military measures, among them appointment of Rafsanjani to the post of commander in chief of Iranian forces, led to the total collapse of morale and paralyzed Iranian troops along all fronts.

Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali Mohammad Esma'il Menhari, who was taken prisoner of war (POW) during recent operations by Iraqi forces, mentioned the Iranian people "are refusing Khomeyni's war pleas, for they have found out that he is a charlatan."

Major Gholam 'Abbas Insha'allah, commander of a tanks battalion, said the domestic situation in Iran "is very poor." Empty arrogance and foolishness brought destruction upon Iran, the Iranian major stressed.

Another Iranian prisoner of war (POW) Captain Ahmed Assad Ra'ii, from Shiraz, said the rulers of Iran sacrificed the Iranian peoples' dignity for the sake of retaining power. Domination of the rulers of Tehran caused misery and despair to the Iranian peoples, the Iranian POW added.

2nd Lieutenant Yadullah Kinj said Khomeyni's cards were exposed to the Iranian people.

2nd Lieutenant Mansur Soleymani, from Nojtaran, said Iranians knew "it is useless to continue the war, it is Iran which has initiated the war and it would be impossible for it to defeat Iraq."

2nd Lieutenant Mohsen Vali Azadi, from Tehran, praised Iraq's excellent treatment of Iranian POW's, saying "The Iranian regime bluffed us with false allegations."

Lieutenant Mahmud 'Enayatullah Najaf-Pur, from Bojnurd, said "the lightning Iraqi offensive left us no option but surrender."

Lt Maqader Zalat-'Ali said Iraqi forces outflanked Iranian positions in a swift, compact manner, leading to the collapse of the besieged Iranian troops.

Lt Taj Mohammad Gholam-'Ali, from the city of Zabol, lashed at the Iranian regime for insisting on the war to attain personal gains at the expense of the peoples of Iran.

Lt Gholamreza 'Ali Soleymani, from Tehran, said the Iranian Armed Forces personnel hate Rafsanjani.

Lt Nasrullah 'Ali Chevushi, from Esfahan, Lt Abdul-Hamid Magban, from Bakhtaran, Lt Ani Hoseyn Mohammad Baqer, from Tehran, and Lt Sa'd Mohammad 'Ali Ja'afariyeh said they were terrified by the war.

IRNA Report on Occupation of Karand Denied

JN2607081288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0740 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Statement by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim—date not given]

[Text] The IRANIAN NEWS AGENCY, IRNA, has claimed that the Iraqi forces have occupied the city of Karand. We would be astonished had we compared this report with the general standards of the other news agencies. However, when this report is made by IRNA, we can find an explanation for this in the series of lies that are often made by the Iranian rulers and their propaganda machine.

In light of this, we categoricaly deny this report in part and parcel and that our units are still west of the (?Beyzeh Tak) strait, and in particular, they are a number of kilometers east of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, in Gilan-e Gharb and in the cities and hamlets mentioned in Armed Forces General Command Communique No 3,273 yesterday. As included in the communique, our forces are preparing to withdraw today in accordance with a specific timetable and the complete withdrawal of our forces.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,274

JN2507170388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,274 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant Armed forces have continued their operations yesterday evening and today as follows:

1. Our daring fighter planes dealt destructive blows to the remnants of the aggressors, inflicting grave losses in men, gun emplacements, and equipment. All of our planes returned safely to base, under God's care, after carrying out 182 combat missions.

2. The proud pilots of our helicopter gunships today carried out 79 combat missions during which they destroyed seven tanks, two launchers, and a number of vehicles. Our men returned with their planes, safe and triumphant, God be praised.

3. The brave men of our naval forces, the vigilant protectors of the Iraqi waters and the Arabian Gulf, have continued to implement our legitimate policy of destroying the pillars of the enemy resources which are being used for aggressive purposes. Our heroic naval forces this morning carried out three missile attacks against the Nowruz oil field platforms and a nearby oil well, destroying their targets and setting them on fire. God bless our heroic naval forces men.

4. At 1055 and at 1820 [0655 and 1420 GMT] today, two enemy planes, an F-5 and an F-4, attempted to penetrate our international border in the II Army Corps central sector. Our brave antiaircraft men intercepted them and shot them down. They were seen falling in enemy territory.

At 1743 today, one of our planes was patrolling the skies over our formations in the central sector when it spotted one enemy F-5 plane. Our plane directed its destructive missiles at the enemy plane and hit it. The enemy plane exploded in midair and fell in flames over the heads of the aggressors. God save the brave men of great Iraq.

5. An enemey force attempted to advance toward the positions of one of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector but our heroes confronted the enemy force with all kinds of weapons, killing 24 and capturing 1. The others fled.

6. One tank and two vehicles were destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector; and two ammunition dumps, one observation post, and one vehicle were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. Last night, 11 enemy boats attempted to advance toward the Al-'Amiq Port. Our men were lying in wait for them. They forced them to flee toward the Iranian coast.

8. A number of Iranian soldiers sought refuge with our forward units and were safely evacuated to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 July 1988

Denial of Iranian Downing

JN2507200688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1938 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—Iraq denied Iranian allegations that two Iraqi planes and a helicopter were shot down today.

In a statement to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman said this evening that all the Iraqi fighter planes and helicopters which carried out combat missions today returned safely to base with the exception of one fighter plane which fell on enemy territory.

Withdrawal From Iranian Cities

JN2607083288 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0819 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 26 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassioante.

Pursuant to the Armed Forces General Command Communique No 3,273 issued yesterday in which the General Command announced our plan to withdraw from the Iranian cities that our valiant forces occupied in the "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah IV" operations, our forces have withdrawn until the time when this statement was prepared, before 1200 [0800 GMT] today, from the cities of Gilan-e Gharb and Salehabad.

[Dated] 26 July 1988

INLA Captures 2 Cities

JN2607102888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—The Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA) has said that its forces seized the cities of Eslamabad and Karand-e Gharb today.

This was anounced by the INLA General Command in its Communique No 1 on the "Eternal Light [Al-Diya' al-Khalid]" operations which was broadcast by the Mojahed radio in Persian today. The radio said that the "Eternal Light" operations began yesterday 150 km deep in Iranian territory in the direction of the city of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran] and that these operations resuled in the liberation of Eslambad and Karand-e Gharb.

The INLA General Command stressed that citizens in the two cities have warmly welcomed the opposition forces and that a large number of Iranian Army personnel have joined the opposition forces with their equipment and weapons. The INLA General Command said these operations are being carried out under the command of Mas'ud Rajavi.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Stand on Resolution 598

JN2407071788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0550 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that Iraq has no designs against Iranian territory and does not seek to humiliate or disgrace the Iranian people. The paper says that the Iranian rulers are deceiving their people to drag them into the crematorium of death.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH says that the objective of the Iraqi Armed Forces' operations is to liberate the national soil and capture as many Iranian prisoners as possible to faciliate the task of attaining a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the stands of the Tehran rulers makes one skeptical about their seriousness with respect to ending the war and implementing UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

The paper adds that the Iranian rulers are maneuvering because they want a temporary cease-fire and not a comprehensive and lasting peace.

AL-THAWRAH says that the Iranian rulers must understand very well that they alone will pay the price for prolonging the war and that the more they prolong the war, the higher the price they will pay.

The paper adds that Iraq views Resolution No 598 as an integral whole and a basis for a lasting peace between Iraq and Iran, not as a transient formula to freeze specific war activities. The Tehran regime will be mistaken if it believes it can tamper with the implementation of the resolution in accordance with the sequence of its provisions, or that it can partition the resolution.

The paper affirms that Iraq knows why the Tehran regime has accepted the resolution adopted by international legitimacy, and stresses that any attempt by the Iranian regime to obstruct the attainment of comprehensive and just peace will cost them, whether on the level of the war or on the domestic level. The paper says that the Tehran rulers must definitively abandon all designs, rancor, expansionist dreams, and aggression.

On Iranian Regime's 'Lies'

JN2507074888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0550 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH asserts that Iraq is very anxious to give noble efforts to achieve peace and make it a reality a chance to succeed.

An editorial in today's AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says Iraq has no ambitions on Iranian territory but has a profound desire for peace and is pursuing a consistently peaceful policy.

The paper warns that Iranian rulers resort to lies and [false] claims in order to arouse the Iranian people, mobilize them, and push them anew into the war arena. The paper says that after 8 years of insisting on continuing the war, the Iranian regime—however skillful it may be in its charlatantry and trickery—cannot convince the Iranian people that it has relinquished its deviant program of aggression and expansion.

AL-THAWRAH maintains that the Iranian regime cannot hide the central facts of the present situation between Iraq and Iran, regardless of the lies, claims, charlatantry, and deception to which it resorts. Foremost among these central facts are the fact that Iraq has decided the war militarily, achieved complete victory and inflicted overwhelming and total defeat on Khomeyni's Iran.

Another of these central facts is that Iraq's peaceful, firm, and principled stand on ending the war was clear from the first days of fighting and Iraq has continued to adhere to its stand throughout the past 8 years. Iraq has tangibly demonstrated and proved in practice that it has no ambitions on any Iranian territory.

AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that Iraq has no plans to expand at the expense of Iran or any other country. It is fighting a just and defensive war to repulse Iranian aggression and destroy the evil and expansionist dreams and intentions of the Iranian rulers, who used to talk about their ambitions on Iraq and their desire "to export the revolution" and establish a new Persian empire under a religious guise.

AL-THAWRAH says the Tehran regime announced its acceptance of Resolution No 598 a full year after its adoption. The paper says the Tehran regime cannot resolve the problems created by the war within Iran and the effects of the war by making false claims and statements. The Iranian regime is trying in vain to cover up its great defeat, military collapse, and political bankruptcy at home through open charlantry and empty bragging.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The lies of the Tehran rulers distort and undermine Iraq's peaceful and principled stand, a stand that is appreciated and respected. No one will believe such lies.

The paper says units of the III Army Corps have withdrawn to the positions from which they had advanced east of Basra on the night of 23-24 July 1988 in accordance with the orders of political leaders. The Iraqi forces are capable of penetrating much deeper inside Iranian territory than they have on all the battlefronts, but Iraq has no ambitions and is anxious to give good efforts to achieve peace and turn it into reality the chance to succeed.

AL-THAWRAH contends that under President Saddam Husayn's leadership, Iraq is capable of managing both the political and military battles with the same degree of capability, efficiency, and success. Lies are useless to the Iranian rulers and will not cover up their defeat, failure, and total collapse.

Paper Says Iranian Agreement on 598 'Tactical'

JN2507084688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Tehran rulers are not desisting for 1 minute from their warmongering and their search for volunteers to send to the battlefronts. This increases Iraqi doubts about their acceptance of Resolution No 598 to end the war.

In an editorial today, the paper says the Iranians' cries of war lead to the belief that the Iranian rulers' agreement to Resolution No 598 is tactical and aims to achieve a temporary truce to obtain whatever gains they can and then return to the war under any pretext.

AL-THAWRAH says the Tehran rulers declared their acceptance of Resolution No 598 because they were compelled to do so. Throughout the past 8 years, they have been fanning the flames of the war against the will of their people and contrary to the desire of the international community. The Iranian rulers' announcement of their acceptance of Resolution No 598 does not inspire confidence.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says the evil clique ruling Tehran is now urging Iranians to volunteer and go to the battlefronts. This clique is arousing their feelings by resorting to the pretext of confronting "the coming Iraqi invasion" and referring to imaginary battles of "liberation" at such and such a place in order to raise collapsing morale. The paper adds that the Tehran rulers know full well that Iraq wants no more than the liberation of its land and does not covet Iranian territory.

The paper emphasizes that Iraq will not give the Tehran rulers the opportunity to use such a pretext. The Iraqi forces that are compelled by the battles to liberate the land and penetrate inside Iran will soon withdraw after capturing prisoners and moving them to Iraq.

AL-JUMHURIYAH urges the Tehran rulers to demonstrate their good intentions and sincere desire to end the war and establish a comprehensive and lasting peace, not a mere cease-fire. The paper asks if the Tehran rulers can convince Iraq by word and deed that "the snake has not only changed its skin but turned into a bird of peace," because that is what Iraq and the world are waiting for.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: If the Iranian rulers' stand toward the Iraqi prisoners had been honorable and legal, and if Iraq had been confident of the sincerity of the Iranian rulers' desire to end the war and establish peace, Iraq would not have needed to destroy the Iranian war machine. However, the Iranian stand on the matter was neither honorable nor legal. The stands that accompanied Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598 do not inspire trust.

AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasizes that Iraq wants peace and is anxious to establish a comprehensive and lasting peace.

Paper Views Withdrawal From Iranian Territory

JN2607064488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that Iraq's withdrawal from Iranian territory is new proof of Iraq's deep desire for peace.

In an editorial today, the paper adds: The Iraqi withdrawal from Iranian territory is tangible proof that it has no ambitions in Iranian territory. It is also a clear sign of its noble objectives, its adherence to the principles and policies it declares, and its refusal to make these principles a subject of cheap compromise or to seize opportunities like the Iranian rulers.

The paper stresses that when Iraq says that it desires and believes in peace, this means that it believes in what it says, and when it says that it will withdraw from Iranian territory it means what it says.

The paper strongly warns the Iranian rulers not to encroach on Iraq's interests and sovereignty. It says: the Iranian rulers must fully understand that we will not allow them or anyone else to encroach on our rights, have ambitions in our land, or act in a manner that would harm our people, threaten our principles and higher values, or tamper with the interests of Iraq and the Arab nation. The Iranian rulers should learn lessons from what happened, relinquish their evil, aggressive course, and be an element of security and stability in the region and not an element of destruction.

Briefs

New Swiss Ambassador

Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received here today new Swiss Ambassador Hans Rodolf Hoffman [name as received], who assumed his duties in Baghdad. [Text] [*JN2307154888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1438 GMT 23 Jul 88*]

Mosad Agents Reportedly Aboard 'City of Poros'

NC2307105888 Paris AFP in English 1025 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Copenhagen, July 23 (AFP)—Agents of the Israeli intelligence service Mosad who were aboard a Greek ship attacked by terrorists earlier this month opened fire on the attackers in an effort to protect passengers, the Danish daily B.T. [BERLINGSKE TIDENDE] and a Danish radio correspondent in Athens reported Saturday.

Quoting well-informed sources, the newspaper and a Denmark radio correspondent reported that witnesses on the ship said the initial attack by the terrorists was followed instantly by a gun battle between the attackers and an Israeli commando unit near the ship's bridge.

"That was why the terrorists ran in all directions and began shooting at each other," one witness reportedly said.

Following the gunfight, the Israeli agents jumped into the water and were picked up by a speedboat.

Initial reports following the attack on the "City of Poros" on July 11 indicated that some of the attackers had fled the scene in a speedboat.

Mosad had earlier warned Greek authorities of an impending terrorist attack on a Greek cruise ship, the sources said.

A young Frenchman, Alain Vigneron, whom Greek authorities have accused of taking part in the attack, was found shot in the back with a machine gun beside him.

Evidence of Mr Vigneron's involvement exists but is not yet "backed up by proof," according to Evangelos Yiannopoulos, head of the Merchant Marine investigation into Mr Vigneron.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Bayt Immar Resident Shot

TA2507162888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] A resident of the village of Bayt Immar in the Ramallah area was wounded this afternoon when he was shot by a soldier during a riot, our correspondent Arye Gus reports. Outside of that incident, Judaea and Samaria were quiet today. Some 200,000 inhabitants of Nabulus, Qabatiyah, Bayt Sahur, and Bayt Jala, as well as several refugee camps in the Nabulus area, are under curfew.

Man Hit by Stone in Gaza

TA2507171588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Excerpt] An Israeli was hit in the head by a stone while he was traveling in Gaza today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the passenger, a resident of Qiryat Gat, was transferred to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon for medical treatment. [passage omitted]

2 Wounded at Al-Shati'

TA2507185588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Today, an IDF officer was wounded in the head by a stone at the Al-Shati' refugee camp in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. The officer was initially treated at the Barzilay Medical Center in Ashqelon, and was later taken to Shiba Hospital.

Military sources said that a local inhabitant had been wounded by IDF gunfire in the course of dispersing disturbances in the camp. The wounded Arab man was treated at a nearby IDF base. [passage omitted]

Explosion in Hebron Casbah

TA2607081288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] A small explosive charge blew up about an hour ago in the Hebron casbah, but there were neither casualties nor damage. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that security forces closed off the area and are carrying out searches.

Soldier Jailed for Refusing Territories Service

TA2507172188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Yet another reserve soldier was jailed for 21 days because he refused to serve in the territories. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Staff Sergeant Menahem Hefetz was only charged with refusing his reserve duty and not with desertion after lawyers intervened on his behalf with the military advocate general's office.

The spokeswoman for the Yesh Gvul movement said that 30 soldiers have so far refused to serve in the territories and not 23 as reported this morning.

Refusal To Serve Called 'Fringe Phenomenon'

TA2507072388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] The IDF has no intention of changing the orders and procedures concerning soldiers who refuse to serve in the territories. This is the result of a discussion held yesterday in the chief of staff's office on the issue.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the chief of staff was presented with statistics showing that since the beginning of the uprising in the territories some 8 months ago, only 23 of the tens of thousands of soldiers who have served in the territories have been sentenced to jail.

The IDF therefore says that this is a small, fringe phenomenon. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 25 July adds that "of the 23 soldiers who were sentenced to jail, 20 are reserve soldiers, 3 are standing army soldiers, and 4 are reserve lieutenants and captains. All of them were sentenced by their immediate commanding officers and were not court-martialed."]

Reportage on Diplomatic Delegation to USSR

Briefed by Peres

TA2407074688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning saw off the members of the Israeli diplomatic delegation which will leave for Moscow this coming Thursday. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the foreign minister briefed the delegation members on the agreements reached with the Soviets and Dutch on the delegation's operation, noting with satisfaction that the Soviets accepted Israel's demand for reciprocity with regard to exchanging delegations.

Minister Peres also noted the increase in the number of tourists arriving in Israel from the Soviet Union. There are 2,000 Soviet Jewish tourists in Israel today, including complete families.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will bid the delegation farewell this afternoon.

Departs for USSR

TA2607091488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] The five-member Israeli consular delegation left this morning on an El Al flight for Amsterdam on their way to the USSR. They are due to receive their visas for the USSR in The Hague and arrive in Moscow the following day. The delegation will operate out of the Netherlands Embassy, and on Sabbath eve the Jewish community in Moscow will give them a reception at the main synagogue in the city.

Shamir Refuses To Show Shahal Romanian Protocols

TA2407191188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] The prime minister is waiting for a letter of apology from Minister Moshe Shahal on what he called Shahal's baseless accusations last week according to which Shamir initiated PLO participation in the running of the territories.

The Prime Minister's Office said this evening that the prime minister calls on Minister Shahal to recant.

Minister Shahal told our political correspondent Yig'al Goren this evening he has no reason to apologize. He said he was told that it was agreed between the prime minister and the vice prime minister that a representative of the Prime Minister's Office would come to Minister Shahal and provide him with explanations on the prime minister's talks in Romania, but that the representative did not arrive.

The prime minister's remarks were therefore surprising, Minister Shahal said, since he did not say anything that calls for an apology. As a member of the Cabinet I demanded an answer.

The Prime Minister's Office said this evening that Mr Shamir would not permit Minister Shahal to study the protocols of his talks with the Romanian president. The talks were transcribed by Ambassador Yosef Govrin and were sent by him to all those qualified to see them.

Shamir Briefs Knesset Committee

TA2507145988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated that Israel will never negotiate with the terrorist organizations, which do not want peace with us. Their real goal is to destroy Israel, even if only gradually. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Mr Shamir made these remarks to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in the course of a review of his talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu a year ago.

Shamir said he told as much to his host. Moreover, he told Ceausescu that Israel would be prepared to negotiate with Palestinian representatives who are not members of terrorist organizations in the framework of talks which would also be attended by Egypt and Jordan. Mr Shamir told the members of the committee that he had sent a message to the Romanian president through Minister Ari'el Sharon a few weeks ago, and that Mr Ceausescu said he hoped to host the prime minister in Bucharest soon.

The prime minister described the remarks of the speaker of Egypt's People's Assembly against the immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union as yet another serious utterance by an Egyptian official. He went on to disclose to the committee that some 1,000 Jews remain in Yemen.

In the session, Yosi Sarid of Citizen's Rights Movement lashed out at the prime minister and the defense minister for their policy in the territories. He called them two autistic men, living in their own separate world, who are in charge of Israel's security. They have been leading us from one surprise to another to the verge of the abyss.

Sarid's remarks aroused the anger of Likud Knesset members. Pinhas Goldstein told Sarid: You are an autistic intellectual yourself.

Shamir Cited on Chemical Weapons, Tabah Dispute
TA2507175488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said the effort of the Arab states to acquire chemical weapons poses a very serious threat. Shamir was speaking to reporters who asked about the report that Syria had developed chemical warheads for its Soviet-manufactured ground-to-ground missiles. Jack Katzenell has the story:

The prime minister said the chemical weapons pose a serious threat to the entire region, not just Israel, especially since Iraq has already used them against Iran. Everything must be done in the international arena, Shamir said, to outlaw such weapons.

The prime minister was speaking to reporters after appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. There he caused an outcry when he said those who put pressure on the government to agree to arbitration over the Tabah issue and drop its insistence on trying the conciliation procedure first had served Egyptian interests, not those of Israel.

Are you blaming Shim'on Peres, the reporters later asked Shamir. I am not making an accusation, Shamir replied. But if we had followed the conciliation procedure as I proposed, our situation would be very different now; there would be no cause for worry. Because we did agree to arbitration we are worried. Are you worried that the arbitrators are going to rule in Egypt's favor over the Tabah dispute, we asked.

I don't want to say one word on what they will rule, Shamir replied. I don't want to influence their decision. But, of course, there might well be concern.

Inside the committee: the recent allegation by Energy Minister Moshe Shahal that he, Shamir, had proposed to Romanian President Ceausescu that the PLO take over the administration of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. I told President Ceausescu that we will never negotiate with the PLO, Shamir said.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic at 1630 GMT on 25 July carries an interview in Hebrew, subtitled in Arabic, with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Knesset correspondent Eli Nisan. Asked what would be the impact of Jordan's decision to sever relations with Judaea and Samaria on the situation in the territories and Jordan's future participation in the peace process, Shamir says "reports to this effect have not yet been confirmed. We have not yet received an official and binding announcement from the Jordanian Government, and I would not like to make any speculation before one has been issued."

Asked about the upcoming meeting between 'Arafat and Husayn, the prime minister says relations between the PLO and Jordan have been marked by ups and downs, "but as far as Israel is concerned, such meetings cannot herald anything good for us." Asked whether he sees the situation in the territories becoming an integral part of our daily life, Shamir says "it is part of our daily life at the moment, but I do not think this situation will continue," and hopes "this phenomenon will one day come to an end and we will resume normal life."]

Rabin Rejects Replacing Peres on Knesset List
TA2407204688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jul 88 p 3

[Report by party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will initiate no move to reshuffle the Labor Party top echelons, despite the belief of a group of central party activists that if he heads the election list the party has a better chance of winning the elections. [passage omitted]

In recent weeks Minister Rabin has received many requests—mainly from the Labor Party center and hawkish wings—to initiate a move which would result in his being placed in the Knesset list first slot, but he rejected this possibility. Rabin said yesterday: "With me, premiership is an option, not an obsession." He further said that the Labor Party had decided Peres would be its candidate for the position of prime minister, and that decision must be respected. He stressed, however, that he cannot say he is not pleased with the latest developments in the Labor Party.

Labor ministers said yesterday that Minister Nehamkin is not the only one who believes Rabin is capable of leading the party to victory, but he is the only one who can speak out, being on the verge of retirement from political life at the end of the current Knesset term. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 24 July, in a report by Mikhal Yudelman on page two adds: "Vice Premier Shim'on Peres yesterday denied a front page HA'ARETZ report on Friday that Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin had suggested that Peres step aside to allow Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to lead Labour into the elections."]

Opinion Polls Reveal Political Party Favorites
TA2207173288 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jul 88 p 2

[Article by Shlomo Naqdimon]

[Excerpt] Sources associated with the Alignment Party, which analyzed secret and open public opinion polls, reached the following findings:

—As opposed to the previous two election campaigns in which the Alignment started off as the leading party, it now operates from a position of inferiority.

—While in the 1981 and 1984 elections, polls predicted a certain victory for the Alignment, this time the polls show a tie between the two major blocs and even a slight edge for the Likud bloc. This situation could change. (This last paragraph deals with the Alignment and the parties affiliated with it as against the Likud and its satellite parties. Weighed solely against each other, the Alignment has a slight edge over the Likud.)

—If the Alignment wishes to maintain the same number of voters it had in the previous elections, when it ran with MAPAM and the Independent Liberals, it has to add some 40,000 votes. These are votes that previously went to other parties, mainly the Likud.

—An examination of some 250,000 new voters shows that only a third of them grew up in an Alignment-oriented environment.

—The personal factor, meaning the leader or leaders of each camp, will become secondary in the upcoming elections. (Peres' popularity had dropped in his own camp while Shamir has grown more popular within the Likud camp)

—None of the surveys and polls included the Arab sector. The number of votes in that sector can account for 14 Knesset seats. It is hard to predict Arab voting trends at this stage.

Sources in the Alignment estimate that placing a Druze, a Christian, and a Muslim in realistic slots, in view of the fact that no other Zionist party has such candidates in these positions, would possibly garner a larger number of Arab votes for the Alignment. On the other hand, it is feared that because of the uprising in the territories, it would be hard to tell how the Arabs would vote until the last moment.

The Arabs may prefer not to vote at all, or perhaps they would vote for RAKAH or the Progressive List for Peace. The chances of Knesset Member Darawshah, who quit the Alignment to start an independent Arab party, are still unclear.

—The toughest fight between the Alignment and the Likud would be over some 5 percent of the voters, who could determine five or six Knesset seats. Hanokh and Rafi Smith, the directors of the Smith Institute, believe this figure is quite accurate and that after certain computations, it might grow smaller. (According to the polls, some 80 percent of the voters have firm views, and 15 percent are wavering between the different parties within the blocs. Therefore, the remaining 5 percent, enough for five or six Knesset seats, could prove to be the real battlefield) [passage omitted]

IDF Introduces Computerized Detainees System

TA2507081088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jul 88 p 10

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Stung by reports of its inability to locate Palestinian prisoners in its expanding jails, the IDF Central Command yesterday unveiled a computerized command and information centre which officers said ensures up-to-date monitoring of the location and status of every person held in army prisons in the West Bank.

Information on any prisoner can be obtained on request within 48 hours, an officer in charge of the centre said.

New orders and procedures have also been instituted this week for notifying families of the arrest of their relatives, the officer said. The information centre will supply a daily report to Civil Administration offices in each West Bank district, and these will pass on the information to the families concerned.

OC [Officer Commanding] Central Command 'Amram Mitzna' has issued new orders requiring notification of families when relatives are arrested.

The centre was set up after the large influx of prisoners during the uprising created chaos in the longhand registration used in newly opened IDF jails. Families reported that they had not been informed of relatives' arrests and could not locate them. There were also instances of prisoners held without valid detention orders.

The IDF had difficulty answering queries because prison records were incomplete and communication with the jails was inadequate. Prisoners missed court appearances because of inadequate records.

Now each prison, except the newly reopened 'Ofer centre, keeps a computerized list of inmates in the facility, and these are transferred ever 48 hours to the information centre in the Central Command. Besides personal details of each prisoner, the lists include their status (such as "administrative detainee" or "held until end of legal proceedings") and projected date of release.

As of yesterday there were 4,091 detainees in IDF detention centres in the West Bank and in the Qezi'ot detention centre in the Negev. Of these, 1,994 are in administrative detention.

The prisoners are first held in holding centres at local military government headquarters for up to 48 hours before being transferred to prisons which also serve as interrogation centres at Al-Fari'ah near Nabulus, Al-Zahiriyah south of Hebron, and Tulkarm.

After they are brought before a judge and remanded until the end of legal proceedings, prisoners are transferred to the Megiddo jail and to Prison 6 south of Haifa. After their sentencing, they are usually returned to the jails, though some, convicted of serious security crimes, are transferred to jails run by the Prisons Service. Administrative detainees, held without trial, are jailed at 'Ofer, near Ramallah, and at Qezi'ot, which can hold 1,800 prisoners.

The officer in charge of the information centre said some prisoners had been released in advance of the current Moslem Feast of the Sacrifice. He said the prisons had yet to surpass their maximum holding capacity of 4,850 inmates.

Commentator Analyzes Emerging Arab Leadership
TA2407144788 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Jul 88 p 6

[Second in series of commentaries by Pinhas 'Inbari: "A Middle-of-the-Road Signpost"]

[Text] Last week's meeting between the Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek and a group of prominent figures from the territories could be seen as a landmark in the development of a Palestinian interlocutor in the territories, who, with the PLO's consent, will give the political process a push. The major novelty was the fact that reporting for that meeting were Palestinian figures associated with the left. These persons have so far abstained from such meetings, claiming that they damage the exclusivity of the PLO's representation of the Palestinians and help promote an alternative leadership.

This development, however, is not all "smooth" and free of internal difficulties. The original list included people known as communists, such as Dr Ibrahim Dalaq [name as published] from East Jerusalem and others who are considered PFLP supporters. Yet they did not show up. The left-wing figures who did come to the meeting were those traditionally identified with Nayif Hawatimah's DFLP.

This situation shows that within the public leadership in the territories, the ties between the Fatah mainstream and the DFLP are stronger than those between the communists and George Habash's supporters.

This seems a bit strange, as the internal political setup in the territories is now aligned according to the Abu Sharif document. The green light the PLO gave to the interlocutor from the territories is one such manifestation. All political affiliations are now classified according to the professed positions toward it: support or rejection. A review of the communist AL TTIHAD and AL-TALI'AH gives the unequivocal impression that the communists are supportive of the Abu Sharif statement and view it as a lever for the peace process.

The 10 July edition of AL-ITTIHAD carries an article by [Israeli] communist leader Emil Habibi in which he criticizes 'AL HAMISHMAR for not drawing a distinction between the "popular committees" and the "strike force," thus making out as though the intifada [uprising] is directed against Israel. Habibi says that the Abu Sharif document is part of the intifada and is to be considered a peace plan. It should be adopted, rather than rejected, as such by MAPAM and the Alignment.

On 14 July, another communist leader, Bashir Baghruti, also wrote in AL-TALI'AH, where he expressed the standing communist policy since the beginning of the intifada. According to him, the Abu Sharif document is an expression of the public's desire to gain achievements in return for the sacrifices the Palestinians have made through their struggles in Lebanon and the territories. He rejected all the unrealistic slogans, especially those calling for a holy war, and stipulated that the authors of these slogans are expressing their depression and burdening the intifada with a load it cannot carry. Abu Sharif's document, however, matches the true spirit of the intifada.

In general, the communists clearly support Yasir 'Arafat. They publish the moderate intifada leaflets and openly oppose the acts carried out in Lebanon by Syria and the Palestinian organizations affiliated with it.

An appropriate question at this point would be why the communists did not come for the meeting with the Netherlands minister, even though their names had appeared on the original guest list. It would seem that the answer lies not in some sort of political dispute over principles. Rather, this was an expression of the internal struggle over the character of the Palestinian interlocutor in the territories.

One of the most interesting points to consider is the reconciliation between Faysal al-Husayni and Hanna Sinyurah. On the eve of the intifada, the dispute between the two was a basic given, despite the fact that both support mainstream Fatah. Al-Husayni openly criticized Sinyurah's meetings with U.S. officials and his sensational initiatives such as his announcing his candidacy for Jerusalem mayor.

It seems that both moved toward each other in order to unite ranks. Sinyurah dropped his Jerusalem initiative and no longer attends meetings with Americans. Al-Husayni "is no longer making efforts" to sharpen differences between them. On the contrary, the political statements he has made lately are surprisingly reminiscent of Sinyurah's.

Of course, they both support Abu Sharif's initiative wholeheartedly. Outwardly, this "realignment" is manifested by the two showing up together for meetings with foreign politicians. This reconciliation greatly helps identify the Palestinians in the territories as one addressee.

It also seems that the radical left is still hesitating to take steps similar to Al-Husayni's. Hanna Sinyurah is too closely committed to U.S. initiatives (mainly Shultz') for these circles to "legitimize" him. Some time ago a left-wing Palestinian activist told me that as far as the left is concerned, Sinyurah marks the red line. He can no longer act as a representative from the territories.

Even though Sinyurah and Al-Husayni have aligned, this does not mean that Fatah is now fully united. Every now and then leaflets in the militant Fatah style are being published, mainly by a group identified as the followers of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. These leaflets attack Abu Sharif and named 'Arafat supporters, who are called "traitors" and are nicknamed "the 'Arafat gang," no less.

The major breakthrough in Israeli-Palestinian relations was undoubtedly achieved by Al-Husayni in the document drawn jointly with Moshe 'Amirav [former Likud member expelled from the party over this document and meetings with Palestinians]. To Al-Husayni's astonishment, his Palestinian partner in these meetings, Sari Nusaybah, was severely beaten at Bi'r Zayt University by the territories' militant youth group, known as Al-Shabibah.

It was Nusaybah who suffered the physical beating, but Al-Husayni suffered a political blow. The assailants made it clear that the political way he had taken did not appeal to them despite the fact that it had been coordinated with and approved by 'Arafat.

Perhaps this experience brought Al-Husayni and Sinyurah together.

It is hard to identify the assailants with any certainty, but it can be assumed that they belong to the circles that now constitute the "strike force"—which Emil Habibi is so careful to distinguish from the "popular committees"—perhaps as an expression of his dissatisfaction with their violence and slogans.

The "strike force," which is the author of the "unrealistic slogans" of which the communist circles disapprove, is the internal leadership that is worthy of PFLP leader George Habash's praises. In an interview with USBU' AL-'ARABI, which was later quoted in AL-NAHAR (on 15 July), the radical left-wing leader was asked how he views the new groups of leaders in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

He replied: This new leadership will play an important role in reorganizing the PLO; it will affect future Palestinian and PLO activities significantly. Meaning: Habash does not talk about Sinyurah and his friends—who are the PLO part that needs to be reshaped—but about those anonymous youngsters of the kind that beat up Nusaybah and currently make up the intifada's "strike force." They are awaiting their turn to introduce reforms into the Palestinian organization. That is why Habash's supporters did not attend the meeting with Van den Broek. Theirs is a different interpretation for intifada.

Thus, the supporters of mainstream Fatah highlight their dovish and pragmatic character in a process manifested in the realignment between Al-Husayni and Sinyurah. This process has won the silent support of the DFLP, but the communists for some reason have reservations about it and the PFLP—as Habash's statements would prove—objects to this process.

Fatah mainstream's rallying around Abu Sharif's document bred statements that do not stop short of the (temporary) bounds set by Abu Sharif. For example, in an interview with the English edition of AL-FAJR (on 17 July), Sari Nusaybah said that although Abu Sharif's document is brave, it is not enough. In his opinion the Palestinians can influence the results of the elections in Israel, and they must pursue Abu Sharif's line.

Abu Sharif's document is not, therefore, the last road sign. We are in the middle of the road. Where this road leads will become apparent in the post-Iran-Iraq-war era.

Views Post-Gulf War Situation

TA2507143888 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Jul 88 p 6

[Third in series of commentaries by Pinhas 'Inbari: "The Chances and the Risks"]

[Text] Information on the situation in the Middle East in the post-Gulf war era and the way Israel will react to developments in that region can make or break political developments in the territories. A trend toward the consolidation of a local political body calling itself "the leadership of the intifada" [uprising], which has been sanctioned by the PLO, can be discerned here.

The Iran-Iraq war brought nearly irreparable damage to Israel in that it tempted then Prime Minister Menahem Begin to renege on the Camp David accords. An effort was made to exploit the fact that world attention was riveted to the Iranian danger in order to solve the Palestinian problem by force rather than according to the written agreements with Egypt. The weakness of the Arabs at that time allowed Begin to launch his aggressive campaign, which nevertheless left him a recluse on Zemah Street.

First, he annexed the Golan Heights, then he launched the "war against the PLO" in the territories. He went to war in Lebanon and never let up on the "land snatching" drive in the territories—a scandal over which a hue and cry was made only after those who initially cheated Arabs out of their land went on to cheat Jews as well.

The Gulf war made it possible to implement the destructive policy in the territories. Furthermore, as the war extended over a long period of time, it allowed Begin to find a faithful heir to his policy in the person of Yitzhaq Rabin, the defense minister from the Labor Party. Were it not for the war, Begin would have been obliged to remain faithful to the Camp David accords and pursue the peace process.

This renders Israel's support for Khomeyni's Iran and its attitude of ignoring Iraqi signals much more understandable.

Consequently, the end of that war, and the fact that an army of 1 million-strong on the eastern front is now unemployed, has brought an end to Israel's freedom of action in the territories. Now it must take into consideration the fact that a continuation of the current state of affairs may, sooner or later, bring the Iraqis to the Jordan River.

The outbreak of the intifada on the one hand, and the decline of the Gulf war on the other hand, has returned the Palestinian problem to the top of the Arab agenda and emphasizes the significance of the PLO in inter-Arab equations.

The war may have ended, but it has not put an end to the Iraqi-Iranian rivalry or Iraqi-Syrian suspicions. These tensions will be transferred to the Palestinian scene, chiefly in Lebanon. Undoubtedly, they will also effect the West Bank and the shape the intifada takes in the future.

It appears that Iraq's immediate interest is to aid 'Arafat in Lebanon, in view of the collapse of his strongholds opposite Syria and its Palestinian supporters. "The Arab confrontation line" will evidently return to the arena, reinforced.

Because of its anti-Syrian inclinations, Iraq has a special interest in seeing 'Arafat regain his power in Lebanon. Syria's status in the fertile crescent will be directly affected by its standing in Lebanon. Thus, as it grows stronger in Lebanon, it pulls Jordan along and endangers the desert border with Iraq. Conversely, the more involved Syria becomes in the Lebanese mess, the less threatening it will be to Iraq.

Iraq's decline in the protracted war against Iran has provided Jordan's King Husayn with the unique opportunity of being the friend of Saddam Husayn and Al-Asad at the same time. Yet it seems that the good times are over and Husayn will have to choose between Iraq and Syria. This is the backdrop for the much talked-about, and as yet theoretical, visit by 'Arafat to Amman. 'Arafat will no doubt try to talk Husayn into forsaking Al-Asad in favor of the Arab power to the east.

Such a Jordanian decision could find its expression first of all in the dismissal of the incumbent prime minister, Zayd al-Rifa'i. Al-Rifa'i is the father of the pro-Syrian policy that places Jordan in the center of the anti-Palestinian camp that used to include Israel, Jordan, and Syria.

Iraq will pressure Syria in Lebanon and will not look favorably upon a pact between 'Arafat supporters and the Palestinian left in the territories. It would prefer to revive the old Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue so as to isolate Syria's supporters. In other words, it will strive to breathe new life into the old state of affairs in the territories, and restore the situation that prevailed on the eve of the Gulf war. A renewed Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue will constitute a major step toward isolating Syria.

This Iraqi-Jordanian-Palestinian axis envelops great dangers as well as great opportunities. It all depends on Israel's reaction. If Israel takes a favorable view of the emergence of a Palestinian entity in the territories, this will, by a natural process, lead to a practical understanding with Iraq and to cooperation with it in the efforts to isolate Syria. Thus, Israel could somehow correct the wrongs it committed during the war. But if it misinterprets the new political alignment in the Middle East and opts to disregard the new Palestinian leadership, it will find itself pushed into an alliance with Syria against 'Arafat, and consequently also against the Iraqi line. In the end there will be further deterioration in the territories, and this will eventually bring the Iraqis to our borders.

This being the case, the group of people who came to meet the Japanese and Netherlands foreign ministers can mean much more to Israel than Israel is prepared to admit. How Israel treats that group will have a major effect on whether or not Israel is heading toward war.

King Husayn Plans 'Important Political Changes'
JN2507175888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1713 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Sources close to the Jordanian Government have stated that King Husayn intends to make important political changes that will apparently curtail Jordanian influence in the occupied West Bank. These sources said that King Husayn informed high-ranking officers of the Jordanian Armed Forces yesterday of these intentions and that these changes would take place after the blessed 'Id al-Adha holiday.

According to other political sources in Amman, these changes will perhaps include a government reshuffle, a dissolution of the Jordanian Parliament—half of whose members represent the West Bank—and a curtailment of the role and importance of the Occupied Territories Affairs Ministry. According to these sources, the expected changes can be viewed as a reconsideration of the Jordanian policy toward the occupied territories following a 7-month uprising and following Jordan's ascertainment of a decline in these territories' support for it.

King Husayn's stand was clear in his important speech at the Algiers summit last month, when he called on the PLO to shoulder its responsibilities in the West Bank and when he stressed that the popular Palestinian uprising is a popular revolution and that Jordan has no ambitions in the West Bank nor does it want to represent the PLO in any possible peace negotiations.

Last Thursday, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced he is ready to visit Amman soon and resume the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. Will this visit take place before the changes? The answer will certainly come this week once the information of the informed sources turns out to be true.

Saddam Husayn Briefs King on Situation at Front
JN2307163888 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] His majesty the king received this afternoon a phone call from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, during which the two leaders exchanged congratulations on the occasion of the 'Id al-Adha.

The Iraqi president briefed his majesty the king on the situation on the front and the military operations carried out by the Iraqi forces to liberate parts of occupied Iraqi lands.

Joint Committee Considers Israeli Tax Policy
JN2407152888 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Jul 88 p 24

[Text] Amman, PETRA—Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin has affirmed that the citizens of the West Bank were being treated with equality and justice under a national rule before the start of the occupation.

The minister added that the taxes collected there used to go to the public treasury, where they used to be recycled again and spent to serve the interests of the country and its citizens.

The day before yesterday, in a meeting at the headquarters of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee, during which a study sponsored by the committee's secretariat on tax policies in the occupied Arab territories was discussed, the minister explained the extent to which the Israeli occupation authorities have gone in tampering with existing laws in violation of the Geneva Convention.

He said that this tampering was represented by the authorities' use of what they called a package of legislation. He indicated that this package is a mix of defense orders issued during the period in which Palestine was subjected to British mandate, emergency laws, and administrative and military orders, especially those pertaining to land ownership and land expropriation.

The occupied territories affairs minister pointed out that the West Bank and Gaza Strip come next to the United States in imports of Israeli commodities. However, the minister added that these are imports of second class commodities.

The minister stressed to those concerned with this study the need to draw up a practical conception that takes into account the circumstances of the Arab citizens in the occupied territories and also helps them confront the tax policies being pursued by the occupation authorities.

Muhammad Milhim, the Palestinian side's representative at the committee, approved of what the minister said and affirmed that the objective of the occupation authorities' tax policy is to uproot the Palestinian citizen from his land.

Dr Fu'ad Bsaysu, the committee's secretary general, expressed thanks to the Jordanian Government for the facilities it has rendered to enrich this study, which tackled the economic and social efforts of this Israeli tax policy which is being pursued in the occupied territories, and added that the taxes collected from the kinfolk by the Israeli occupation authorities in 1986 amounted to $500 million.

Romanian Role in Soviet Jews' Emigration Viewed
JN2307075888 Amman Al-Dustur in Arabic 23 Jul 88 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Romania and the migration of Soviet Jews: Where Is the Fact"]

[Text] The reports that have been circulating for weeks on a Romanian-Israeli deal to facilitate Soviet Jews' direct passage to occupied Palestine pose several intriguing questions, some related to the Soviet Union and others to Romania, not to mention the Arabs, the Palestinians, and all those linked to this issue.

First of all, we do not think that the friendly Soviet Union has opened the door for Jewish migration in the way demanded by the World Jewish Congress and other Jewish and Zionist organizations, and their very influential U.S. supporters in Congress and the White House.

It is not likely that the Soviet Union, known for its historical friendship with the Arabs and constant support for their causes, responded to such Zionist and U.S. pressure at a time when some influential Israeli forces spoke about deporting the Arabs by trucks outside their homeland. This is especially since Moscow, under its young leadership, realizes that such a response will be explained as a free gift to Israel for Shamir and his retinue's rejection of every peace sign, including the international conference itself.

If we do not find on the horizon of Soviet policy anything to prompt such a negative change, at least in the near future, at the same time, we have too high an opinion of friendly Romania to suspect it of playing the role of a "sanctioner" [al-muhallil] in return for a cheap price incompatible with Romania's international status and excellent political position in the entire Arab world.

Nevertheless, we were hoping to hear a Romanian denial of such reports, which are being deliberately leaked by various Israeli sources to slander friendly Romania and harm its wide and historical relations with the entire Arab world.

On the other hand, we were hoping that all this news about the migration of the Soviet Jews across the Romanian gate to occupied Palestine will cause some concern or even some direct questions by the Arabs, especially the Palestinians, who have strong relations of friendship with Romania. As we tend not to believe all the leaked Israeli reports on the migration of Soviet Jews directly through Romania, we pose these urgent questions to all concerned parties. Perhaps this would contribute to revealing the secrets of such a game and halt its big wheel before it actually begins to move.

Briefs

New Ambassadors

His Majesty King Husayn accepted the credentials of five new ambassadors to Jordan at the Royal Hashemite Court. His majesty accepted the credentials of Guinean Ambassador John Lansana Conte, ROK Ambassador Pak Chi-chan, Kuwaiti Ambassador Sulayman Salim al-Fassam, Finnish Ambassador (Johanino Ohanen), and Nepalese Ambassador Bhogenbra Nath Rimal. [Excerpt] [*JN1907134888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Jul 88*]

FRG Aid

FRG Aid—Amman—Three memoranda were signed by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the FRG Government at the Ministry of Planning today to finance three projects by the FRG Technical Aid Program for 1987-88. The amounts of the aid is DM 5.1 million. The memoranda were signed for the government by Planning Minister Dr Tahir Kan'an and for the FRG by the FRG ambassador in Amman. The secretary general of the ministry, a number of ministry officials, and the FRG Embassy staff attended the signing ceremony. [Excerpt] [*JN2107200188 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jul 88*]

Syria's Defense Minister Talas Meets Birri

NC2507165388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas arrived in Beirut this afternoon aboard a special Syrian plane. He went to the Summerland Hotel, where he met with Minister Nabih Birri and senior Syrian commanders, and returned to Damascus this evening.

Addresses Syrian Troops

JN2507190588 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Excerpt] As instructed by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, visited units of our Armed Forces stationed in Beirut. He was accompanied by Comrade Ahmad Qabalan, a party Regional Command member, who is also chief of the regional peasant bureau. His excellency the general met with fighters and conveyed to them His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's congratulations on 'Id al-Adha and his wishes that they succeed in their honorable pan-Arab task in sisterly Lebanon.

In the midst of cheering for our great party and the leader of our nation's march, struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, His Excellency Gen Talas outlined the present Arab circumstances, imperialist and Zionist conspiracies, and attempts to set off an explosion in the Arab arena, abort the march of the Arab struggle, stifle Arab resistance, and strike at the valiant uprising in the occupied Arab territory.

The general emphasized Syria's pan-Arab role and its consistently determined stand against imperialist and Zionist machinations. He also stressed the need to bring about the right conditions so Lebanon can return to its normal role as a free, Arab country. Gen Talas emphasized the need to help the Lebanese weather the crisis and achieve national accord, forge an Arab, democratic state capable of dealing with imperialist and Zionist conspiracies, and liberate occupied southern Lebanon.

The general declared that Israel's role is bound to end and will have no effect on the fortunes of sisterly Lebanon. Syria, he added, will remain the mainstay of the Lebanese nationalist resistance until the Zionist invaders are expelled, the Lebanese problem resolved, and peace and security established in the country. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Answers Al-Jumayyil on Election Date

NC2607124788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni today answered the letter which President Amin al-Jumayyil sent him last Saturday asking him to convene the Chamber of Deputies as soon as possible to elect a new president of the Republic. Al-Husayni is expected to begin intensive parliamentary consultations on Thursday to fix the date of the session at which the new president will be elected.

In his reply Al-Husayni says: The constitutional provision giving me the right to fix the date of the election session is not restricted at all. The measures guaranteeing the safety of the election process, particularly those which fall within the jurisdiction of the executive authority, are perhaps more pressing at this time and will contribute to fulfilling the desire to hold the election at an early date.

Al-Husayni adds: In my capacity as chamber speaker, I address myself to the executive authority, making this urgent and persistent request official. He goes on: You refer to the qualifications of the future president. You know the view of the Chamber of Deputies regarding the qualifications required for the new president in light of the conditions prevailing in the country. It is the duty of all of us to supply the new president with the accord required for our future unity and the reform necessitated by our historical existence.

In his reply to President al-Jumayyil, Speaker al-Husayni also says: We will work to remove the obstacles from the path of the future president in order to speed an end to the war, liberation of the land, and reconstruction of the state.

UK Weekly Interviews Amal Leader Nabih Birri

PM2607083888 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 20-26 Jul 88 pp 22, 23

[Interview with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri by Muwaffaq Madani in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Madani] You tend to adopt an isolated stand and engage in an isolated battle. Now it seems as if you are preparing for another battle, demanding that an accord be reached before a president of the Republic of Lebanon is elected.

[Birri] Many people are politically calling for the need to reach accord before the elections. [passage omitted] Failure to reach accord before carrying out reform would be harmful to Lebanon's destiny. Thus, I repeat once more that the constitutional elections must not be held until accord is achieved.

[Madani] This is your opinion. But Islamic gathering members Dr Jamil Kibbi and Zaki Mazbudi recently said that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam expects the new Lebanese president to achieve reform.

[Birri] (Angrily) This is untrue. The question of reaching accord before the elections is not only a Syrian condition, it is also a condition set by both the U.S. Administration and other international circles. [passage omitted]

[Madani] But President al-Jumayyil, according to his sources, did not discuss the political reform issue with President al-Asad at the Algiers meeting.

[Birri] So why did the Syrian delegation meet with President al-Jumayyil in Algiers? Was it not to prove to him and others that the door is still open for any offers he may wish to make in order to reach accord before the presidential elections? And if President al-Jumayyil had no interest in working toward accord, President al-Asad would not have received him. [passage omitted]

[Madani] Do you expect Al-Jumayyil to meet your demands regarding accord during the remaining 6 weeks of his term when he could not achieve such a step during the past 6 years?

[Birri] It seems to me that the regime is still not serious enough about securing reconciliatory moves. Thus he is wasting time. I believe that in order for President al-Jumayyil to reach reconciliation with Syria and the opposition, he must change the approach he has adopted during his era. According to my understanding, the Syrian position toward him is: If Al-Jumayyil has any reconciliation proposal, let him present it to us (the Syrians).

[Madani] Do you mean the accord paper prepared after 6 months of U.S.-Syrian contacts?

[Birri] No. This was unacceptable. We rejected it.

[Madani] Do you mean a new paper?

[Birri] New and more acceptable reconciliation terms.

[Madani] And what happened to the paper presented by U.S. envoy April Gillespie in connection with inter-Lebanese accord?

[Birri] It is frozen. The Americans played a mediatory role between President al-Jumayyil, the Syrians, and the other Lebanese parties. And as President al-Jumayyil and Al-Asad have met, there is now no justification for U.S. mediation. [passage omitted]

[Madani] It is being said that the Syrians will back the nomination of Sulayman Franjiyah. What information do you have about this?

[Birri] My information is that [former] President Franjiyah will run for office. If he does, they will support him. In my opinion, the problem is not the identity of the president, it is to achieve harmony—that is, accord—before a president is elected.

[Madani] Do you expect any security incidents to occur in Lebanon with a view to achieving accord?

[Birri] There will be no explosive security conditions. Nor do I expect any fundamental change on the ground. The security situation in Lebanon will remain as it is.

[Madani] There are fears that the Al-Kharrub area or East Sidon could be bombed.

[Birri] There will be no bombings because the Syrian forces have entered the area, where there is only one group and one command.

[Madani] Are you among those who fear that the Lebanese presidential election may not be held?

[Birri] Lebanon's problem is not whether it has a president; the Presidency itself has always been the problem. The important thing is to tackle the problems of the ruled, who are concerned about Lebanon, not a president for it; they want a candidate for accord, not for the Presidency.

[Madani] Have you, as militia commanders, agreed to unify administrative Beirut so the presidential elections can be held as scheduled?

[Birri] Frankly, they are distracting the people with the issue of unifying administrative Beirut so that they will forget about their demands for political reform.

[Madani] Do you expect an Israeli operation in the south with a view to affecting the course of the presidential elections?

[Birri] I expect limited operations, as happened in Maydun and Al-Luwayzah and elsewhere. But I do not expect a major Israeli operation like that which occurred in 1982, because Israel has learned a lesson from Lebanese resistance in the South. Had it not been for internal fragmentation in Lebanon, Lebanese resistance would have been a significant phenomenon in contemporary history. The statements made in Washington by Yitzhaq Rabin, the Israeli war minister, regarding the Palestinians and Lebanese resistance, are clear. We doubt that Israel will embark on an invasion of the South again.

[Madani] What is your reply to the statement made by Hagglund, commander of the UN Emergency Force, that Israel invited Amal to negotiate regarding security arrangements in the South?

[Birri] Hagglund has announced openly that the report is a conspiracy against him, that he respects Amal, and that what is required is unconditional Israeli withdrawal. Dialogue between Amal and Israel has continued since the establishment of Amal, namely via the gun.

[Madani] And why does the movement deny the national and Islamic parties in the South, as well as the Palestinians, freedom of military action against Israel? And why does it detain them?

[Birri] No one is prevented from carrying out political action. As for military moves, they are denied to everyone, except for those who confront Israel. The South is a passage for resistance, not a place for hooliganism. This is the rule applied by Amal in the South. We ask those

who say the opposite: How can you justify your claims when fedayeen operations in the South are launched and announced daily? We will carry those who want to fight Israel on our shoulders and on top of our heads.

[Madani] What about the meeting reported by the media between the Amal official in Tyre, Dawud Dawud, and some Israelis? And what about reports of undeclared arrangements being implemented by both you and the Israelis in the South?

[Birri] (Angrily) I do not answer these questions. Before Amal there was no resistance in the South. And Dawud is one of the founders of this school. It is unfair to incriminate the resistance and its line.

[Madani] Why do you not lift the siege on the Palestinian camps in the South? Why do you not release Palestinian detainees?

[Birri] It seems to me that international political affairs have distracted you from several facts. We have launched a unilateral initiative urging an end to the fighting between us and our brothers the Palestinians. We said that this war should be ended forever. Although the Palestinians remained in east Sidon, and although they have not returned seven prisoners to us, we have released all detainees—which our Palestinian brothers do not deny. We hope that this chapter is now closed forever.

[Madani] Did you lose the southern suburb [of Beirut] after your war with Hizballah?

[Birri] I did in the beginning. But they lost in the end. They say it is final results that matter.

[Madani] What stage have reconciliation efforts reached between you and Hizballah?

[Birri] Our Syrian brothers are still making reconciliation efforts.

[Madani] It has been said that you rejected reconciliation with Hizballah and refused to allow it to resume its activities in the South.

[Birri] We are seeking reconciliation based on foundations. The Hizballah group must reconcile itself with the Shi'a and the Lebanese, not with me alone. As for their activities in the South, no one opposes them unless they disturb security; in such a case they will be treated like any element in Amal. [passage omitted]

[Madani] [Lebanese Forces Deputy Chairman] Karim Paqraduni is asking you to abandon your links with Syria.

[Birri] He is asking me to abandon myself. [passage omitted] I would remind Paqraduni of the finest "political flirtation" he wrote about Syria in his book "The Lost Peace."

[Madani] [Acting Prime Minister] Salim al-Huss and recently Karim Paqraduni have announced that the war in Lebanon has actually ended.

[Birri] They do not read history. So long as there is deprivation in Lebanon, and so long as the Republic of Lebanon is Maronite, the war will not end. And if it is extinguished for a while, it will erupt again. They must recover their senses and reform Lebanon from within. What benefits will they gain if they win the world and lose themselves?

Amal, Palestinians Clash Near Sidon; 1 Killed

NC2607051388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Violent clashes involving the use of mortars took place last night between Palestinians and Amal gunmen along the Al-Ghaziyah-Al-Shawakir-Hajiz al-Safa axis. One Amal member was killed and three others wounded.

'9 February' Group Claims 2 Attacks on Syrians

NC2607090388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February organization has claimed that it fired a rocket at a roadblock manned by Syrian occupation troops near the Holiday Inn Hotel in West Beirut shortly before midnight last night. Two Syrian soldiers were wounded as a result.

The same organization has announced that two other Syrian soldiers were injured when an explosive charge was detonated and another rocket fired by members of the organization at a Syrian roadblock at the 'Ayn al-Muraysah triangle at dawn today.

Hizballah Gunmen in Beirut Attack Positions

NC2607060088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Clashes involving the use of rockets and machineguns took place on the Science College-Kafr Shima-Al-Amrusiyah-Laylakah axis in Beirut at around midnight last night. The skirmishes began when Hizballah gunmen attacked military positions which were forced to respond to silence the source of fire.

Resistance Men Attack Lahd Position in South

NC2607112288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Islamic resistance men in the South attacked a position held by agent Lahd's militia in Tumat Niha today. The resistance issued a statement saying that several agents and Zionists were killed and that a military vehicle and some fortifications were destroyed. The statement added that the agents then shelled four towns in western Al-Biqa' for 3 hours.

Afghanistan

Pakistani Assertion on Soviet Withdrawal Denied

LD2507190188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] A spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan, in connection with the recent assertion by [Pakistani president] General Ziaul Haq that withdrawal from Afghanistan of the limited Soviet military contingent has been recently halted and that the Soviet Union has brought 10,000 fresh soldiers into Afghanistan, says:

The aim of these baseless and false assertions is not only to divert the world's attention from Pakistan's blatant and obvious violation of the provisions of the Geneva accords, but also to create suspicion and doubt about the loyalty and honesty of the Soviet Union concerning the fulfillment of its commitments.

Also, these provocative and irresponsible assertions by the president of Pakistan is a manifestation of Pakistan's ill intentions and lack of interest in rapidly resolving the situation around Afghanistan and establishing a lasting peace in the region.

While the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are implementing the Geneva accords with good intentions and in complete honesty, and the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingent from Afghanistan is taking place precisely in accordance with the set timetable—Mr Cordovez himself, the special envoy of the UN secretary general, has expressed satisfaction in this regard—Pakistan, with repeated violations of the Geneva accords, has intensified its interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan. It still remains a shelter [panagah] and a center for training, arming, and equipping the armed extremist opposition groups in Afghanistan.

The spokesman adds that the period since the signing of the Geneva accords has proven the honesty in word and deed of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, and everyone is witness to this undeniable fact. The return of the limited Soviet contingent takes place strictly adhering to the Geneva accords and in accordance with the fixed timetable.

By 15 August of the current year, 50 percent of these forces will return to their peace-loving country. They practically do not exist in 19 provinces of our country. One could point out the facts from another point of view, that is, the comprehensive observation of the Geneva accords by the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, which no aware conscience or sound mind can ignore.

Despite all these facts, figures, and truths, the president of Pakistan, in front of a group of foreign correspondents in Rawalpindi, with such fully baseless and untrue allegations wants, by accusation and irresponsible and contrary-to-fact assertions, to open a window for accusation and violation of the Geneva accords. Pakistan is trying to find a pretext for its blatant violation, but how can it deny that the armed opposition in Pakistan's territory is encouraged and supported contrary to the spirit of the Geneva accords.

Greater amounts of modern weapons are being provided to them. Pakistani military men are being sent to Afghanistan to directly take part in combat operations, to kill those Afghans who are in favor of an end to the war and fratricide by firing rockets and committing more terroristic and destructive crimes. In particular, the firing of several missiles on residential areas of Kabul are unforgivable crimes that without doubt could not be committed without extensive financial and morale assistance from Pakistan and the United States.

The successful and honest implementation of the Geneva accords has direct connections with the stance of Islamabad and Washington. The minute the interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan stops, in accordance with the spirit of the Geneva accords, the war and bloodshed in our country will end. Based on this key issue the Pakistani authorities should not avoid their responsibilities and take the path of allegation and pretext against the opposite side.

One can say with confidence that a continuation of the violation of the provisions of the Geneva accords, (?renewal) of the interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and resorting to such baseless assertions, will damage the speedy solution of the situation around Afghanistan and will bring about serious obstacles in the path of its attainment.

President Najibullah Participates in 'Id Prayers

LD2407200788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Today, 24 July, was the first day of the 'Id al-Adha, and hundreds of thousands of our Muslim and religious compatriots performed the 'Id prayers all over the country—with a wish for lasting peace in the country—in 'Id gahs [place, larger than mosque, specially built to be used during 'Id ceremonies] and in the communal mosques of the center and the provinces.

Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, together with a leadership delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan, at 0900 this morning performed the prayers of 'Id al-Adha led by Qari Abdul Aziz Qaysari in the communal mosque of Sherpur [located in Kabul, near the presidential palace] and asked Almighty God to provide prosperity for the people and advancement and progress for the country.

A BIA correspondent reports that the vice presidents and chairmen of the Sena and Wolasi Jirgah; Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minsiter of the Republic of Afghanistan; a number of the members of the Politburo of the

PDPA Central Committee; a number of high-ranking civil and military officials; ambassadors and charges d'affaires of Islamic countries in Kabul; and a large number of Kabul citizens, took part in the 'Id prayers.

Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and the leadership delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan, after performing 'Id prayers, went to Gol Khanah Palace and accepted congratulations on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha offered by those who accompanied him during prayers. [passage omitted]

Presidential Decree Approves New Political Group
LD2307202988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] The Office of the Presidency reports that, based on the humane national reconciliation policy and on the multiparty system of the new political structure in the country, Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah recently issued Decree No 449 on the formation of the Self-Sacrificing Afghan People's Solidarity Movement [Nahzat-e Hambastagi Mardom-e Afghanistan, Fedaiyan]

Here is the text of the presidential decree on the formation of this political group, the Self-Sacrificing Afghan People's Solidarity Movement:

In accordance with Article 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan and Article 8 of the law on political parties, permission is given for the formation of the Self-Sacrificing Afghan People's Solidarity Movement. The founding members of the Self-Sacrificing Afghan People's Solidarity Movement are duty-bound to act in accordance with Article 11 of the law on political parties.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Advance on Qandahar as Soviets Withdraw
BK2607082088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0812 GMT 26 Jul 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan July 26 (AFP)—Afghan resistance guerrillas advancing from the suburbs of Qandahar are now as close as 500 metres (yards) from the centre of the southern city, regional rebel commanders said here Tuesday [26 July].

Soviet troops have started withdrawing from Qandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city, but at a snail's pace and their continued presence and hold over the airport is delaying rebel attempts to capture the city, they said.

"The mujahidin are 500 metres from the market (in the centre of Qandahar). If the Russians withdraw we can take the town in a few weeks," said 'Abdul Wali, military commander of the moderate National Islamic Front.

He said the rebels lacked sufficient means to protect themselves from air attack and were particularly short of U.S.-made Stinger surface-to-air missiles.

"We have a network of tunnels and are almost completely encircling the city, but the airport and some 8,500 Soviet soldiers remain as the main defence of Qandahar," he said, adding that the rebels had attacked the airport and command posts with rocket fire.

Regional mujahidin commanders said the rebels were no more than seven kilometres (4.3 miles) from the airport to the northeast of Qandahar.

Despite the rebel advance on the centre of Qandahar most of the fighting over the next few months is likely to take place in the resistance-held suburbs, which after years of war have been reduced to piles of rubble pockmarked by rebel foxholes and camouflaged tunnel networks.

Minefields bristling with barbed wire make up the no-man's land separating the opposing forces.

"We are close enough to insult one another. We can hear each other clearly," a mujahidin commander said in this western Pakistan border city some 200 kilometres (124 miles) southeast of Qandahar.

"The fighting is now moving from the suburbs towards the centre of Qandahar," said Maula Malang, a top rebel commander who was here for a few days after operations in the southeastern provinces of Qandahar, Helmand and Zabol.

Mr. Malang, who represents the moderate Hezb-e Eslami Khalis faction, said a Soviet brigade—about 1,800 men—had recently moved out of Qandahar.

But Mr. Malang reaffirmed the importance of the airport, saying: "We are bothered by aerial bombardments and attacks against our lines of communications."

In addition to the Soviet troops, Qandahar is defended by 12,000 Afghan Government troops and militiamen.

A large part of these forces come from the Achakzai tribe and swear allegiance to the powerful and legendary chief, Esmat Muslim, who has built up an impressive military inventory supplied by the Soviet Armed Forces.

Qandahar, which is expected to become one of the first cities to fall into rebel hands after the Soviet troop withdrawal, has become a stake in the feud between the Islamic fundamentalist rebel leaders backed by Islamabad and the moderate parties and tribes who hold popular sway over the area.

Clashes Between Resistance, Government Reported

Rebels Kill 19 Soldiers

BK2207085988 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of more operations by the mujahidin against the Kabul regime forces. In the attack on the Kabul troops at Spin Buldak in Qandahar Province, the Afghan mujahidin killed 14 Kabul troops and wounded 6 others. In the operation, a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was seized by the mujahidin. In another attack on a military convoy in Qandahar Province, the mujahidin killed five Kabul troops and destroyed a tank.

Rebel Convoy Destroyed

LD2207183188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] The military section of BIA reports that a weapons convoy of the extremists, which was en route to Badakhshan Province, came under the crushing blows of the Armed Forces yesterday in the environs of Baghlan Province.

As a result of this operation, carried out with the people's cooperation, 1 recoilless gun, 1 ZK-1, 20 surface-to-surface missiles, 50 rocket-launchers, and 44 mortar shells were seized by the security forces. Three of the convoy's guards were also eliminated.

According to another report, a group of professional terrorists who attempted to disrupt the peaceful life of the people in the environs of Ghazni Province, were recently crushed by the security forces. As a result of these operations, four terrorists were killed and three light machineguns and dozens of handgrenades were seized from these terrorists.

According to another report from Konarha Province, a war-mongering extremist group which attempted to disrupt the peaceful life of the people in the environs of Sarkani District by perpetrating criminal actions, were crushed yesterday by the country's Armed Forces. The report adds that as a result of this operation 1 surface-to-surface missile launcher, 1 recoilless gun, 1 DShK, and 1 rocket-launcher were destroyed, and 1 rocket-launcher with 240 rockets, and 1 light machine-gun were seized by the Armed Forces.

According to another report from Konarha Province a war-mongering extremist group was crushed yesterday in Watapur and three members of this group were arrested. In the course of this operation a quantity of weapons and ammunition of the enemy was destroyed.

In the course of mopping-up operations carried out in the environs of Vardak, Paktia, and Nangarhar Provinces by the vigilant security forces of the country, a number of extremists were crushed and a quantity of weapons and ammunition was seized. According to the BIA report from these provinces, 37 murderers were killed in the environs of Vardak Province; a ringleader of the extremists, Abdul Jabar, was killed in the environs of Nangarhar Province, and another 14 men were seriously injured.

The military section of BIA reports that extremist elements who were planting antipersonnel mines in the environs of Laghman and Vardak Provinces, for the purpose of killing our compatriots, were punished for their deeds when the mines exploded. The report adds that Fateh Khan, Sher Muhammad, Abdul Ghani, Mir Muhammad, Mohtat [name indistinct], and Engineer Salim were among those killed.

'Extremist' Group 'Crushed'

LD2307193888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] An extremist war-mongering group led by (Faqirullah) belonging to the notorious Gulbuddin band, attempting to disturb the peaceful life of the people of (Watapor) region in Konarha Province, was crushed recently by the security forces with the direct cooperation of the peace-loving people of that region.

According to a report by the BIA military section, in this action the security forces killed 28 of these criminals and captured 3 of them. They captured 10 surface-to-surface missiles and 4 weapons of various types.

According to another report, a criminal extremist group led by (Mawlawi Shirin) who intended to disturb the peaceful life of the people of Sarkani District, Konarha Province, with surface-to-surface missiles and mortars, was crushed recently by the Armed Forces. As a result of this combat operation by the security forces, which took place with the direct cooperation of the district people, 15 of these murderers were killed and their arms and ammunition were destroyed.

34 Killed in Border Shelling

BK2507140288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1338 GMT 25 Jul 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Excerpt] Chaman, Pakistan-Afghanistan border, July 25 (AFP)—At least 34 people have been killed in an 11-hour artillery battle between Afghan tanks and Pakistani cannon here in this border town, witnesses said Monday [25 July].

Twenty-six residents were killed in the marketplace or in their fragile homes of dried mud, as well as five mujahidin rebels and three Afghan militia men, witnesses said.

The death toll in the Afghan town of Spin Buldak only a few hundred meters (yards) away across the border was unknown.

The incident began when mujahidin fired rockets on the Afghan Army in Spin Buldak from Pakistani territory, a resistance source said. Afghan tanks responded, prompting retaliation by Pakistani artillery.

Afghan tanks fired more than 150 rounds on this Baluchistan city of about 110,000 inhabitants in the artillery duel, which began Saturday at 6 a.m. and lasted until 5 p.m., severely damaging downtown buildings here, including a police station and a militia barracks. Sporadic shooting continued Sunday. [passage omitted]

Wakil Protests to UN

BK2607030688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] At least 34 people are reported to have been killed in artillery battles between Afghan troops and Pakistani soldiers in Chaman town near Baluchistan border during the last 2 days. Afghan tanks fired over 150 rounds in the artillery duel.

Afghanistan has again accused Pakistan and the United States of violating the Geneva accord. In a protest letter to the United Nations, the Afghan foreign minister, Mr 'Abdul Wakil, said the Peshawar-based rebel groups continued their missile attacks on Kabul and other cities. He said at least 75 people have been killed in the missile attacks in the last 1 and ½ months.

Mujahidin Capture 3 Camps

BK2507153888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the Kabul troops are reported to have retreated toward the city of Ghazni—leaving behind them 5 tanks, 2 trucks, and 12 military vehicles—after the capture of Moqor cantonment, Shah Juy, and Shahr-e Safa military camps by the mujahidin. While fleeing, the Kabul troops also destroyed military installations.

According to another report, the mujahidin blew up the ruling party's office in Nimruz Province and destroyed a military supply depot in the Khash Rud subdivisional headquarters. According to yet another report, the mujahidin are continuing their siege of Bamian in central Afghanistan.

Planned Bombing 'Foiled'

LD2507165488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Alert security forces prevented a sad incident yesterday in Emam Saheb District, Konduz Province. According to the BIA military section, elements belonging to extremist groups planted a time bomb at the holy site of (Reza Mobarak) Emam Saheb for the time when our Muslim and religious compatriots were performing the 'Id prayers there. They intended to kill a number of our compatriots. However, the extremists' conspiracy was discovered in time and was foiled. Its perpetrators were turned over to the hands of law investigation.

Pakistani Jirgah Supports Geneva Accords

LD2407233388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 23, BAKHTAR—Elders and chieftains of various tribes of Mohmand Agency (an administrative unit of Pakistani regime in the free tribal areas) held recently an extensive jirgah during which they expressed their support to the policy of the national reconciliation and Geneva agreements, reports reaching here say.

The participants of the jirgah called upon Pakistani Government to refrain from subversive activities against the Republic of Afghanistan which run counter to the Geneva agreements. It was stressed in the jirgah that the free tribes, specially the Mohmand tribes will not allow the Government of Pakistan and the extremists to use their regions in an imposed war against the Republic of Afghanistan. The participants of the jirgah addressed messages to Diego Cordovez, special envoy of the UN secretary general and Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of India.

Cinematography Protocol Signed With CSSR

LD2307010588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] This morning Ahmad Bashir Roygar, Afghan culture and information minister, returned to Kabul from Prague. He had led a delegation there at the invitation of the CSSR authorities to participate in the international television festival Karlovy Vary. The culture and information minister told a BIA correspondent at Kabul International Airport that the Afghan delegation took an active part in the festival's work.

The delegation also exchanged views with the CSSR mass media officials on further expanding and deepening cooperation in various fields. The two countries also signed a cooperation protocol on cinematography. The protocol includes short-term and long-term cooperation in equipping, preparing, and training cadres for Afghan cinema. Czechoslovak experts are to visit Afghanistan to study the present condition of Afghan cinema.

Najibullah Cables Polish Leader on Anniversary

LD2307085788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 22, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA CC, sent a congratulatory message to Warsaw addressed to Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of Polish United Workers Party, on the occasion of 44th independence anniversary of Poland.

The message expressed confidence that the present relations between parties, governments and peoples of Afghanistan and Poland will expand and consolidate ever further in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and durable peace in the world.

Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil has also sent separate messages to their Polish counterparts on the same occasion.

Bangladesh

Talks Held With Pakistani Finance Minister 22 Jul

BK2207160588 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Pakistan has offered a credit of $50 million dollars to Bangladesh to procure machinery and equipment, including railway coaches, buses, and road rollers. The offer was made at the official talks between the two countries in Dhaka today.

Visiting Pakistani minister for commerce, finance, planning and development, Dr Mahbubul Haq, and Planning Minister A.K. Khandokar led the delegations of the two countries at the talks. Official sources say the terms and conditions of the credit is to be decided with an agreement between the two sides at the end of the talks.

The sources say the talks, lasting over 3 hours, were held in an extremely cordial and friendly atmosphere. The two ministers also reviewed the existing bilateral trade and expressed satisfaction at the steady growth of trade between the two countries.

At the request of the Bangladesh side, Pakistan also agreed to supply 100,000 tons of cement and 30,000 tons of sugar. The Pakistani minister was assisted by a 12-member delegation which, among others, includes the additional secretary in charge of the ministry of commerce and the Pakistani ambassador in Dhaka, Riaz H. Khokhar. The Bangladeshi planning minister was assisted among others by State Minister for Commerce H.M.A. Ghaffar.

Meanwhile, a four-member delegation headed by Kaisar Ahmad Sheikh, president of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, met the members of the Executive Committee and representatives of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Dhaka today.

They held wide-ranging discussions on finding out the ways and means for consolidating further the existing bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries. The Pakistani delegation has shown keen interest in industrial investment opportunities in Bangladesh.

India

Atomic Energy Official Holds News Conference

Says Pakistan Developing A-Bomb

BK2407030788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] The Atomic Energy Commission chairman, Dr Srinivasan, has said Pakistan is acquiring various types of hardware from different parts of the world in its efforts to assemble an atomic bomb. He said India is committed to peaceful use of atomic energy. Addressing newsmen in Pune, Dr Srinivasan said the developments in the neighborhood would not drive the country toward a weapon-oriented nuclear program. However, he said, the country's interest will be fully safeguarded.

Heavy Water Plants Proposed

BK2307161688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Two more heavy water plants are coming up at (Manguru) in Andhra Pradesh and Hazira in Gujarat. This will be in addition to six heavy water plants in operation in the country already. This was disclosed by the Atomic Energy Commission [AEC] chairman, Dr Srinivasan, at a press conference in Pune today. Dr Srinivasan said heavy water was being imported from the Soviet Union for expansion of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant. He ruled out any plan to export heavy water in view of the country's requirements. The AEC chairman said talks were on with the Soviet Union for the import of two reactors.

2 'Giant' Reactors From USSR

BK2307144388 Hong Kong AFP in English 1434 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] New Delhi, July 23 (AFP)—India is to buy two giant nuclear reactors from the Soviet Union, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Saturday.

PTI quoted Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Chairman M.R. Srinivasan as saying that India was ready to sign an agreement for two 1,000-megawatt pressurised light-water nuclear reactors for purchase before the end of the year.

Mr Srinivasan said New Delhi was currently studying a draft agreement.

The two reactors would help boost India's total nuclear energy output to 10,000 megawatts by the year 2000, the AEC chairman said.

The offer is the first from the Soviet Union in the nuclear field since India set up its first nuclear plant in 1969 in western Maharashtara state.

Mr Srinivasan said the federal government had approved outlays of more than one billion dollars to the AEC to build six 500-megawatt nuclear reactors and four 235-megawatt reactors in India.

"We have reached a stage of standardised designs, and industries have become more experienced in meeting requirements of the construction of our (nuclear) reactors," Mr Srinivasan was quoted as saying in the western city of Pune.

Mr Srinivasan said the AEC had not finished selecting sites for the installation of the new reactors.

'Complete Understanding' Reached on Darjeeling

BK2507161188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] At the tripartite talks on the Darjeeling issue in New Delhi today, complete understanding has been reached over the formation of the Darjeeling Gurkha Hill Council. Today's talks were held between the home minister, Mr Buta Singh; the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu; and the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] leader, Mr Subhash Ghisingh. An agreement to solve the problem has been reached in principle. The final agreement will be signed in Calcutta at a later stage.

The meeting, which lasted for nearly 2 and ½ hours, discussed various issues raised by Mr Ghisingh. The three leaders expressed their sense of deep gratitude to the prime minister for his help and cooperation in finding a peaceful and negotiated solution to the problem. Later, they called on Mr Gandhi. The prime minister thanked the West Bengal chief minister for his cooperation in arriving at the settlement.

Talking to newsmen later, Mr Jyoti Basu expressed the hope that peace will now return to the Darjeeling hill areas. He said he will soon convene an all-party meeting in Calcutta to brief the leaders about today's deliberations.

Reportage on Police Strike, Riots in Gujarat

Minister Details Stance

BK2507162388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] The Gujarat chief minister, Mr Amarsinh Choudhary, has said stern action will be taken against those policemen who fail to report for duty immediately. Talking to newsmen in Gandhinagar this evening, he said some more policemen have been dismissed from service for deserting. He said the government's decision to derecognize the Police Employees Union is irrevocable and there is no room for any talks with the defiant police officials.

He said the police union leader, Mr Ashok Bhat, who was released by the court late last night, has been rearrested this afternoon under the National Security Act. The police commissioners and DSP's [deputy superintendent of police] all over the state have been asked to deal sternly with policemen absenting from duty.

The chief minister said the attendance of police personnel was normal in most parts of the state barring 35 police stations in Ahmedabad City and Kheda, Sabarkantha, and Gandhinagar Districts.

The Army continued to stage flag marches in Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Baroda, Modasa, and Sabarkantha. Home guards have been placed into service in Ahmedabad and elsewhere for traffic control. The chief minister described the overall situation in the state as normal.

The leader of the police union, Mr Ashok Bhat, while addressing meetings of police employees in Ahmedabad this morning before his arrest gave a call of strike. He also demanded that dismissed policemen be reinstated and arrested policemen released.

Police Strike Continues 26 Jul

BK2607031588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] In Gujarat, strict vigil is being maintained throughout the state as the strike by the constables and head constables entered the 3d day. According to an official spokesman, no major incident has been reported since last night, and the situation is under control. The attendance of police force continues to be affected in 40 police stations in 4 districts, including the state capital—Gandhinagar. Armed patrolling continues in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Rajkot, and few other towns in Panchamahal and Sabarkantha Districts. The state government has warned the striking policemen and asked them to resume their duties immediately or face dire consequences.

Additional railway protection force has been deployed at the railway stations. Home Guards have also been placed into service for traffic duties in major cities.

The opposition leaders of the Janata Party and BJP have extended their helping hand to the state government in meeting the situation arising out of the strike.

Efforts 'To Crush' Strike

BK2607084788 Hong Kong AFP in English 0831 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Excerpt] New Delhi, July 26 (AFP)—Paramilitary forces re-arrested a western Gujarat police union leader in efforts to crush a three-day-old police revolt which has paralysed the state's law and order machinery, officials said Tuesday.

Gujarat State Police Union President Ashok Bhatt was arrested late Monday [25 July] under the tough National Security Act (NSA) as more and more police abandoned their posts and took to the streets, police officials said by telephone.

Mr Bhatt was held on charges of inciting loyal policemen to revolt. He was re-arrested a day after a judge in Ahmedabad City released him on grounds that his arrest was unconstitutional.

The anti-terrorist law is non-bailable and provides for a minimum of one year's detention without trial, the officials said, adding that the NSA would be used to crush the rebellion among the state's 59,000-strong police force.

Mutinous police constables and sub-inspectors abandoned wireless centres and telephone exchanges and forced loyalist operators to desert their posts to halt Gujarat's police communications network, they added.

"I am the only officer here but the (police) control room is no more functioning," a senior police officer told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by phone from the state's main police nerve center in Ahmedabad, adding that there was no way to confirm reports of rioting by the deserters.

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) said that mutinous police torched three state-owned buses and looted houses Monday in Ahmedabad and that a number of people were injured in day-long clashes.

A 1,000-strong group of police rioters allegedly set fire to four houses and two shops in the walled city area of Ahmedabad and clashed with Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) troops in other parts of the city, UNI said.

Police bodyguards of Gujarat State's Chief Minister Amarsinh Chaudhary and other senior ministers began deserting their posts Monday along with their service weapons, triggering a massive hunt for them, news reports said.

Army soldiers and paramilitary troopers have disarmed most of the mutinous policemen, sealed the state's 34 armouries and taken command of 24 police stations in Ahmedabad where the police mutiny first flared on Sunday.

Mr Chowdhury told state-run television and radio stations early Tuesday that his government would sack those who do not return to duty immediately.

Gujarat administrators have dismissed 55 police officers, including 15 union leaders, in the state's Saurashtara Region, de-recognised the seven police unions and sent an SOS to New Delhi for reinforcements, officials here said.

Army soldiers with machine guns mounted on trucks patrolled the streets of Ahmedabad, Baroda, Rajkot and Modasa towns—the main centres of the police revolt, state television said Tuesday. [passage omitted]

More on Killing of Golden Temple Head Priest

BK2507160788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, the head granthi [priest] of the Harminder Saheb [Golden Temple], Giani Sohan Singh, and the secretary of the SGPC, Mr Bhan Singh, were gunned down by terrorists in Ludhiana today. The general secretary of the SGPC, Mr Mal Singh Ghuman, received serious bullet injuries in the attack.

According to an official spokesman, the victims, along with some other SGPC members and officials were inside the local Guru Nanak Engineering College, in connection with a meeting, when three terrorists opened indiscriminate fire. While Giani Sohan Singh died on the spot, Mr Bhan Singh succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. Mr Mal Singh Ghuman's condition is reported to be serious.

Elsewhere in the state, two persons were shot dead by terrorists. The killings took place in Hoshiarpur District. A youth was kidnapped from Ferozepore District.

Iran

Khomeyni Grants Audience to IRGC Youths, Others

[Editorial Report] Tehran television service in Persian in its 1700 GMT newscast on 25 July carries a 6-minute report on Khomeyni's audience with a group of IRGC youths and volunteers at his Jamaran residence in Tehran.

The film report begins with a shot of Khomeyni entering the balcony, followed by his son Ahmad Khomeyni, a guard, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Tavassoli, who is in charge of religious affairs in the imam's Secretariat. Khomeyni walks slowly along the balcony, with one hand raised. The camera then cuts to show the audience shouting slogans. The next shot shows Khomeyni lowering himself into an armchair, as the volunteers shout "We are your soldiers, O Khomeyni!" Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami Jamarani, the imam's representative and head of the Hajj, Religious Bequests, and Endowments Organization, begins his speech with greetings on the occasion of 'Id-e Qorban.

He speaks of the "U.S. puppets" "who did not permit the dear Iranian pilgrims to perform the hajj" and the "lifegiving tidings" by the imam "with the acceptance of Resolution No 598" "which infused a new spirit into the body of the nation and the revolutionary people of Iran."

An inset of Khomeyni superimposed on pan shots of the audience shows him sitting immobile, with his head slightly bowed. He appears frail and gaunt.

Emami Jamarani asks the audience to pray to God to preserve Khomeyni's life. The next shot shows Khomeyni standing with his hand raised. He is not shown rising from the armchair. Stooping slightly, with his right hand raised,

Khomeyni walks unaided but very slowly along the balcony, as the audience shouts slogans. He then turns toward the audience with both hands raised. Khomeyni then turns and goes through the door on the balcony, followed by his son and Hojjat ol-Eslam Tavassoli.

Khomeyni is not observed to speak at all on this occasion.

UN Envoy Mahallati Holds News Conference

LD2307061788 Tehran IRNA in English 0612 GMT 23 JUl 88

[Text] Washington, July 23, IRNA—Iran's envoy to the UN Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati Friday condemned fresh Iraqi ground and chemical attacks on Iran in defiance of the UN Resolution 598 and announced Iran's readiness for any cooperation in implementation of the resolution.

Speaking at the UN Headquarters in New York at a press conference, he said an Iranian delegation headed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will arrive in New York Monday for consultation with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on implementation of the cease-fire.

The Iranian ambassador to the UN said conditions set by Iraq for implementation of the resolution are against the word and spirit of the resolution.

He added that in a meeting with [Perez] de Cuellar and Brazilian head of the Security Council Paulo N. Batista Friday morning he reported on Iraq's flagrant violation of at least three UN resolutions and its hindering moves on implementation of Resolution 598.

He said that Iraq has also violated Resolution 612 calling for a ban on chemical weapons. On Thursday and Friday, Iraq deployed these weapons on a large-scale on three Iranian areas martyring at least 80 civilians and injuring 600 others, mainly women and children.

The third resolution violated by Iraq is Resolution 616 passed by the Security Council three days ago which stresses that Resolution 598 is the only honourable solution to the war.

Velayati Sends Letter to UN on Iraqi Operations

LD2307224188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Following the recent acts of aggression by the Iraqi regime in occupying parts of the frontier territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a letter has been forwarded from our foreign minister to the UN secretary general. Part of the letter says:

Mr Secretary General, following Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598, Iraq has resorted to unprincipled and illogical pretexts and has attempted to (?negate) the resolution and delay its implementation in order to continue its aggression and occupation of the territories of the Islamic Republic while it has decisively accepted Resolution No 598 and has declared explicitly its full cooperation with Your Excellency, leaving no opportunity for false and empty excuses by Iraq.

On behalf of Iran I call on you and the Security Council to judge this matter. Is is not true that Article 1 of the resolution says that one of the first steps toward reaching a solution is to observe a cease-fire and halt all military operations? However, not only has Iraq not observed the cease-fire, but it has been conducting new acts of aggression by occupying Iranian territory, thus blatantly violating this article.

At the present time the question in our mind is: What guarantees exist that the same aggressive country which, during the first phase of establishing peace—so openly violates all international norms and principles, even the resolution that it has (?itself) accepted, ignoring decisions of international tribunals and also its own undertaking on Resolution No 598, will not later repeat its violation of commitments to peace?

Mr Secretary General, the question in the minds of the Iranian people now faced with the latest aggression in occupying Iranian territory—a blatant violation of all international norms and rules, particularly of Resolution No 598—concerns the Security Council's reaction. In our view, this (?expectation) is particularly important.

We expect that you, as secretary general of the UN and the Security Council, which carries the responsibility for world peace and security, should mount a timely and international preventive action. Undoubtedly, continued savage acts of aggression and occupation of Iranian territory by Iraq, and also inaction by the Security Council could endanger the new trend of gaining peace within the framework of Resolution No 598, to whose acceptance and implementation Iran has been committed so far. In such an event, the responsibility for the outcome [words indistinct] will be with the warmongering and hegemonist Iraqi regime.

Departs for UN

LD2407073388 Tehran IRNA in English 0726 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran for New York Sunday morning for talks with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on ways of implementing Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war. Speaking to reporters before leaving Tehran he said the trip was taking place in compliance with Perez de Cuellar's request. Since Iran has accepted the resolution it must closely cooperate with the secretary general in all stages of implementation of the resolution.

Velayati added that ever since approval of the resolution Iran has announced its views and has accepted the secretary general's plan for executing it. He added that he is travelling to New York in the light of talks of the Iranian envoy with UN officials, which he described them as preliminary steps.

On renewed Iraqi aggression against Iran he said the latest round of Iraqi violations once again proved to the international community that Iraq is not after peace. Iraqi large-scale attacks on Iranian territories show how sincere the Baghdad regime [words indistinct] implementation of the resolution, he told reporters.

More on escalated Iraqi attacks he said Iraq which claims to have accepted the resolution has now launched fresh attacks on Iran after the latter accepted Resolution 598.

The Iranian foreign minister once again reiterated that acceptance of the resolution by Iran is not a tactical move and aims at establishing a lasting peace. "We will stand by the commitment we have made," he concluded.

Sends Messages to Organizations

NC2507061288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Here is a report on the messages sent by Foreign Minister Velayati to ICO Secretary General Pirzada and to the chairman of the foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement:

Part of Mr Velayati's message to Mr Pirzada, ICO secretary general, states: After the official acceptance by the Islamic Republic of Iran of Security Council Resolution No 598, the Iraqi regime resorted to illogical pretexts and once again showed its true aggressive nature. Ignoring international law and violating borders, it has occupied parts of the Islamic Republic's territory. These acts of aggression, which continue, prove that the Islamic Republic is right to say that the Iraqi regime does not want peace.

In addition to violating the Security Council resolution, the Iraqi regime's acts of aggression also blatantly violate the ICO's principles and threaten the process of peace that began within the framework of Resolution No 598. The Islamic Republic declares that the absence of a timely international deterrent move is encouraging the Iraqi regime to continue its aggression. Therefore, Your Excellency is expected to take suitable international steps and condemn the Iraqi regime's acts of aggression.

Mr Velayati's message to the Zimbabwean foreign minister, in the latter's capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement's foreign ministers group, says: At a time when Paragraph 1 of Resolution No 598 stresses the need to observe an immediate cease-fire and halt all military operations, the Iraqi regime has, by continuing its aggression, crossed international borders with the intention of occupying more Iranian territory. These aggressive acts by Iraq not only manifest that that regime's past allegations on Resolution No 598 and on its support for peace were meaningless, they also are yet another clear proof of the aggressive nature of the Iraqi leaders and of the correctness of the Islamic Republic's views on this.

Mr Velayati points out in this message: As one of the active members of the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Republic of Iran expects that this movement will condemn these aggressions and will take deterrent steps to confront this aggressive regime. In this way the movement can play a constructive role in preserving international peace and security.

UN Truce Team Arrives in Tehran 26 Jul

LD2607052588 Tehran IRNA in English 0516 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—A seven-member team from the United Nations headed by Lieutenant General Martin Vadest arrived in Tehran early Tuesday on a three-day visit and was welcomed by political and military officials of Iran.

The team is formed of five officers from the UN Truce Supervision (UNTSO) and two military advisers to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Upon arrival General Vadest said here that he will explore the ways and means for implementing and maintaining a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, and that during his three-day stay here he will review relevant topics with Iranian military and political officials.

He said his team will present its report to Javier Perez de Cuellar within 10 days from its arrival in Tehran.

The UN team is to fly to Baghdad upon conclusion of its work in Tehran.

Red Crescent Cables ICRC on Iraqi Use of Toxins

LD2407191988 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—Following the extensive use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime in the war fronts against Iran, head of the Red Crescent Society Seyfollah Vahid Dastgerdi cabled a message to the International Committee of the Red Cross (IRGC) and other Red Cross and Red Crescent societies today.

Dastgerdi in his message said the Iraqi regime's love for bloodshed and massacre has become evident in view of its continued aggression, even after the Islamic Republic of Iran's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 (July 18).

Most border areas and villages have sustained heavy losses as a result of the Iraqi chemical bombardment over the past few days, he said.

He also called on all international societies and organisations to fulfill their responsibilites within the framework of humanitarain laws and explicitly and officially condemn the ongoing Iraqi atrocities.

USSR's Vorontsov Offers To Host Peace Talks

OW2307121788 Tokyo KYODO in English 1156 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 23 KYODO—Moscow has offered to host direct talks between Iran and Iraq to end their eight-year-long war in a Moslem residential area in the Soviet Union, an Iranian newspaper reported Saturday.

The newspaper said the proposal was put forward by Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov in his talks with Iranian Government officials in Tehran.

Vorontsov visited the Iranian capital from Wednesday through Friday following a trip to Baghdad.

Iraq apparently proposed direct talks with Iran to end the war, and the Soviet Union offered its good offices in an apparent move to strengthen its political influence over Iraq.

Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, however, rejected direct negotiations with Iraq and called for United Nations mediation to bring about a ceasefire.

Commentaries on Recent Iraqi 'Aggressions'

World's 'Silence' Criticized

LD2407191588 Tehran IRNA in English 1856 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—The Iraqi Ba'thist regime has continued to bomb and shell Iran's residential and industrial areas even using chemical and cluster bombs in western border villages, despite Iran's acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution on July 18.

Since then, the intruding Iraqi warplanes have raided industrial and labour units nine times, and residential quarters in border towns and villages 11 times, martyring at least 40 and wounding over 150 Iranian civilians.

In addition to the afore-said attacks the towns of Gilan-e Gharb, Ilam, Khorramabad, Andimeshk, Sar Dasht, Eslamabad-e Gharb, Karand-e Gharb, Pol-e Zahab and Salehabad have been subjected to constant enemy air raids and shellings since July 18.

The Islamic Republic of Iran exercising utmost self-restraint has contented to point out to the world the indiscriminate Iraqi crimes of attacking houses and using chemical weapons, but this tolerance and self-restraint has a limit.

International forums and world organizations are now facing this basic question as to whether "silence" is the only responsibility which they have against the repeated Iraqi aggressions and atrocities.

The fresh Iraqi invasion confirms Iran's stands on bringing the aggressor to trial and once again proves the folly of trusting a regime, for whom crime and savagery is an inherent part of its nature.

Iraqi 'Aggression' Assailed

LD2307092888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0848 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] One year after the earlier emphasis by the Ba'thist regime on the implementation of the Resolution No 598, one year after Saddam's lies and deception in seeking peace and a cease-fire, one year after the propaganda pressure mounted by all the media supporting Saddam alleging that the acceptance of the Resolution No 598 would put an end to war and aggression, today all the world sees that Saddam has put on the same aggressive clothes.

Today all the world sees that Saddam has put aside his peace-seeking mask and has resorted to aggression. Today all the world sees that Saddam is doing with Resolution No 598 what he did with the Algiers Agreement [of 1975].

These facts were revealed through Iran's acceptance of the Resolution No 598. It is now known who during the past year has been dreaming of aggression and occupation under the guise of false peace-seeking gesture. It is now known that the peace-seeking slogans of Saddam were meant to deceive public opinion. It is now known that Saddam had put on the garb of seeking peace in order to hide his war armor. It is now known that Saddam is the same Saddam of 22 September 1980 [outbreak of the war], harboring all his claims and aggressive objectives.

And now, you the Iranian nation, the proud youth, you men and women of Iran: The Iranian political initiative in accepting Resolution No 598 has torn apart Saddam's veil of deception and lies and revealed Saddam's true face to all.

Now it is the duty of every Iranian, it is the duty of every Muslim, and it is the duty of everyone who loves independence and freedom of the Iranian nation to rise and to go the arena of defending the country, the revolution, the territorial integrity, and the honor of the nation. Rise. The enemy has shamelessly committed aggression against the cities of Islamic Iran, your cities.

Resistance to Iraq Urged

LD2307134388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1113 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Under circumstances wherein the Islamic Republic has declared its acceptance of Resolution No 598, Iraq in continuing its mischiefs on the fronts, yesterday and today embarked on extensive aggression in several southern and northern axes. The news received from the operational sectors indicate the fighters of Islam have succeeded so far in repelling the forces of the enemy in most of the operational axes and in inflicting heavy losses and casualties on them.

Now, when the Islamic Republic has accepted Resolution No 598 in a move aimed at reaching a permanent and lasting peace in the region, we are witnessing the fact that the Iraqi regime, in spite of 7 years of peace-seeking slogans, is resorting to continuous offensives on the battlefronts and preventing the progress of peace negotiations within the framework of this resolution.

It is not clear on what basis, in the course of the past year, the world media was bragging about Iraq's acceptance of Resolution No 598. Of course, the warmongering and aggression of Saddam is not something that has come to light just now; rather, this regime, from the start of the war has blatantly demonstrated its warmongering spirit. The Iraqi regime, which started the war with the aim of conquering Iran within the space of 3 days, has deployed chemical weapons in cities and on the fronts, in spite of international laws banning their use.

Moreover, by embarking on the war of the cities, by attacking passenger airliners and trains, and by attacking nonmilitary targets in the Persian Gulf, the Iraqi regime has further blackened its record. Taking note of this reputation, it is likely that Saddam's regime, in spite of announcing in international forums and political circles its acceptance of Resolution No 598, may now attempt to evade actually accepting it, continuing its mischiefs on the fronts as before. Up to now, one of the fundamental points that people and military officials should note is that they should strengthen the fronts more than ever and force the Iraqi regime, by this means, to accept Resolution No 598.

One of the points that should be noted by international bodies is that the Iraqi regime is not only not moving toward the realization of the eight articles of Resolution No 598, but, by repeated use of chemical weapons, it is violating Security Council Resolution No 612.

A reminder on this point: As the UN has drawn attention to the deployment of chemical weapons independently in that resolution and has banned their use in war, it seems that the Security Council must take serious measures to force Iraq to accept Resolution No 612. Once again it must be stressed that, in taking note of the chemical offensives and Iraq's attacks on the fronts, as well as the attacks of Iraqi fighter bombers against our country's industrial and economic centers, a bright future for an end to the war within the framework of Resolution No 598 cannot be envisaged.

For this reason, the extensive and active presence of fighting forces on the battlefronts becomes very important because, with their active presence on the northern and southern stretches of the fronts, the fighters can seriously confront any potential plots of the Iraqi regime and foil them, just as they have in the past.

The aggressor Iraqi regime, is at present attempting to regain the targets it was trying to capture at the start of its aggression and failed to achieve due to the all-round resistance of our people. It is trying by means of inhuman methods to achieve its aggressive intentions. However, with the brave resistance of our Muslim people, the Iraqi regime will be forced to face reality.

Saddam's 'Pretexts' Denounced

NC2307080488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's research group]

[Text] Following Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, the Iraqi regime has tried—by resorting to baseless pretexts, by spreading doubts about Iran's motives in accepting Resolution No 598, and by propounding new issues such as the need to begin direct talks—to pave the way for gaining certain concessions which are outside the framework of the said resolution and for continuing its mischiefs.

Moreover, one should consider the fact that [words indistinct] despite the Iraqi regime's announcement of its acceptance of the contents of the UN Security Council's resolution, the paragraph on discerning why and how the war started is not viewed favorably by the Baghdad rulers. Therefore, resorting to a range of political obstructions and military mischiefs in order to achieve concessions outside the framework of the resolution and to weaken the paragraph on naming the aggressor is not an unexpected phenomenon.

Despite what has been clearly stated in Resolution No 598, the Iraqi regime's Foreign Ministry and Saddam himself do not consider a cease-fire without the commencement of direct talks as sufficient. They consider this cease-fire on the fronts to be contingent on direct talks between the foreign ministers. However, no mention of this was made in the articles of Resolution No 598, and Paragraph 3 of this resolution only points to the need for the cooperation of Iran and Iraq with the UN secretary general.

In view of this, the Islamic Republic's representative to the United Nations repeated Iran's readiness to cooperate extensively with the UN secretary general and described the cards used by Saddam's regime as a pretext and an effort to evade the acceptance of Resolution No 598.

Meanwhile, in addition to propounding this pretext, the Iraqi regime began new aggressions yesterday on the various operational axes from the north to the south of our country. Moreover, at a time when the UN secretary general is trying to establish a cease-fire and implement the resolution's paragraphs, the Iraqi Army has once again resorted to using chemical weapons and has committed new crimes in the west of the country.

However, the establishment of a cease-fire, the withdrawal of forces to internationally recognized borders, and the continuation of the secretary general's efforts to implement the remainder of the resolution's paragraphs, namely, the paragraph on forming a committee to name the aggressor, are preliminary steps and conditions that have been foreseen in the resolution for ending the Iran-Iraq war.

Therefore, announcing agreement with Resolution No 598 dictates that the establishment of peace and security should also go through these preliminary steps, unless the Iraqi regime's leaders have other objectives and are—by propounding pretexts such as the need to begin direct talks and other such matters—working toward their fulfillment.

The important point is that the world should take these baseless pretexts into consideration, once again understand the reality behind the motives of Saddam's regime, and act in a practical manner according to its [words indistinct] (?genuine) responsibility in relation to this. The so-called peace-seeking governments of the region and the permanent members of the Security Council should also bear in mind that the continuation of such pretexts, the repetition of mischiefs, and the re-occupation of Iranian territories can, in a very short time, destroy the grounds for establishing a cease-fire and putting Resolution No 598 into effect, and lead to a new phase on the fronts.

The Islamic Republic of Iran once again emphasizes its full agreement with UN Resolution No 598 and restates its readiness to cooperate extensively with the UN secretary general. It clearly states that basically it will not (?accept) any condition which is outside the framework of Resolution No 598 and that if the roads to this resolution are blocked, it will have no other alternative but to continue the war on the fronts.

Therefore, the advocators of peace should end these obstructions as soon as possible and, by forcing Iraq to accept the cease-fire, pave the way for the realization of the resolution's other paragraphs.

IRNA: Iraq Trying To 'Delay' Cease-Fire

LD2207153888 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 22 Jul 88

["Iraq Seen Trying To Delay Ceasefire"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, July 22, IRNA—The Baghdad regime's reply on U.N. moves to implement resolution is seen as a deliberate attempt to obstruct a ceasefire in its almost 8-year war imposed upon Iran, according to reports from New York.

Iraq's response from Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz delayed by three days made no reference to accepting Resolution 598 or to a ceasefire but retorted to propose a new 5-point plan that focused only on Iraqi rights in the Persian Gulf.

The London GUARDIAN reporter at the U.N. called it a "blatant effort" by the Baghdad regime to delay the ceasefire and said diplomats were pointing out that it would "prolong the war indefinitely."

'Aziz "failed to suggest an agenda or a time limit," it said and merely mentioned in the time of any differences parties could resort to the U.N. charter, international law or Geneva agreements.

Secretary General Perez de Cuellar sought to pre-empt the Iraqi move and said he was proceeding with the U.N. plan that would start with an appointed ceasefire when his advisers report back after visits to Baghdad and Tehran.

Iran's decision to accept UN Resolution 598 on Monday was seen as putting the onus on the Iraqi regime, with the British government among others, saying that it was now up to Baghdad to prove that its repeated assertions on accepting the resolution was more than mere words.

Reports from the Iraqi capital have suggested that the Baghdad regime has little alternative to accept the resolution in full to save face but with it is the risk of being declared guilty on the world stage for being responsible for starting the war.

Reportage, Commentary on Dispatches to Fronts

Necessity for Volunteers Cited

NC2407074888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's research group: "The Need To Confront the New Aggressions by Saddam's Regime"]

[Text] Since the day the Islamic Republic of Iran officially and definitely accepted UN Security Council Resolution No 598, the world has been witnessing new aggressions by the Iraqi regime on the holy territory of our country. The aggressive enemy has announced that

the objective behind its fresh overtures on the fronts is to create an equilibrium and to gain concessions in order to strengthen its position in political talks on the war.

At each juncture in the war, the Iraqi regime has resorted to new pretexts in order to continue its aggression and offensive against Islamic Iran. However, each time, the deceitful facade and the empty allegations of this regime soon became clear to the Muslim peoples of both countries and to the world public. Now, the best possible opportunity has been given for the world public and particularly for the international organizations defending peace to look at the matter more profoundly and clearly and to take the sham peace-seeking slogans by Iraq as a criterion to measure the Iraqi regime's faithfulness to international commitments and to resolutions that it itself has repeatedly stressed it accepts.

Now, 8 years since the outset of its aggression against Islamic Iran, during which it was unable to achieve its aggressive objectives because of the all-embracing resistance by the people and by the Armed Forces, the Iraqi regime is exploiting the new conditions that have been created and the presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf. With the unsparing support of the superpowers and its extensive use of chemical weapons the Iraqi regime intends to continue its plots against the Islamic Revolution.

Now, after the official acceptance of Resolution No 598 and Imam Khomeyni's message on the establishment of a lasting peace, our resistant people should bear in mind the following sensitive point: With the acceptance of this resolution the imposed war has still not ended, the Islamic homeland continues to seek defenders, and the Islamic Revolution needs the selflessness and devotion of all the ranks of people in order to continue along its path.

The people, particularly the fighters of Islam, should show that while seeking peace they are militarily capable of crushing the plots by the enemy and the enemies of the Islamic Revolution at any time and in any place. With the vast cooperation of the imperialists, the enemy has invaded large parts of our Islamic homeland and occupied some areas. Nevertheless, the resistance by the soldiers of Islam has inflicted extremely effective blows on the aggressors and occupiers.

The continuation of the flood of people and fighters to the fronts can give a lesson to the aggressors that will compel them to surrender to justice and right and to accept a just and lasting peace.

Summer School Cancelled

LD2407095688 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—Tehran radio interrupted its regular program at 11:20 local time (07:50 GMT) Sunday and announced that Iran's Muslim forces on Saturday night repelled invading Iraqi forces at several points near Sumar and elsewhere. It said details of the news will be broadcast by the Iranian radio immediately after it is received.

The announcement was repeated several times interspersed with a familiar brass band military march, and short telephone messages by Muslim militants including females who voiced their unconditional support for a defensive war with the Iraqi Ba'thist Government.

Meanwhile in response to the request of thousands of college students wishing to go to battle fronts the Iranian Ministry of Culture aand Higher Education ordered the termination of the summer sessions in colleges and universities so that eager students may go to fronts without falling behind their peers in their studies.

Students Asked To Register

LD2407180588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] The IRGC General Command has ordered all the guards-students of universities and higher education institutes of the country to register for participation at the fronts of the war of right against wrong, asking them to contact the student center of Guards Imam Hoseyn, blessings be upon him, University in Tehran or student offices of the IRGC in various towns.

Departures for Fronts Noted

LD2407192788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Every part of Islamic Iran today was the scene of evidence of an aware nation following the publication of the historical message of the chief commander of the Armed Forces and the invitation by the General Command Headquarters to the popular forces to defend the Islamic homeland. People have been leaving for the fronts in droves to join the warriors of Islam.

The revolutionary children of the hope of the world's oppressed, enjoying considerable revolutionary awareness and understanding the sensitive conditions of the revolution and the destiny of the Islamic homeland, left all parts of the country for the fronts to fight the warmongering enemy at the fronts of the defense of honor and nobility.

Thousands of mobilization forces from the provinces of Khorasan, Lorestan, Fars, Bushehr, Ilam (Bakhtaran), Kerman, Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh, (Ahmad), Semnan, Yazd, and Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari; the cities of Gorgan, Sari, Kashan, and Firoz Kuh-e; and Khark Island left for the fronts and were given a warm send-off by the people of these areas.

More Forces Leave for Fronts

NC2507080788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] In response to the calls by the imam of the ummah and the General Command Headquarters on the need for readiness on the part of all the people to crush the enemy's fresh acts of aggression and mischiefs, the dispatch convoys left for the fronts from the town of Karaj, the Savojbolagh, Taleqan, Shahriyar, Robat Karim, Eshtehard, and Astara Districts, and Qods township yesterday. The convoy consisted of a large number of experienced, combat-specialized, and volunteer forces of the Mobilization of the Oppressed. A great number of volunteer popular forces from Zanjan also left for the fronts yesterday.

In addition, a large number of clergymen from the Qom Theological Seminary, specialized in combat propaganda, left for the fronts as part of the second extraordinary and rapid dispatch of the Husayni Epicmakers.

According to another report, a group of Iraqi mujahidin of the 9th Badr Army affiliated toa the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq responded to the call by the great leader of the Islamic Revolution and the commander in chief and left for the battlefields yesterday.

Convoys Leave From Provinces

LD2507120288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, a second convoy of the "Allegiance With Imam" Corps, composed of Islamic Revolution Committee Guards from Khorasan, Esfahan, Bushehr, Hormozgan, Semnan, and Bovir Ahmad va Kuhkiluyeh, left Tehran today for the fronts, while changing "Death to the United States" and "Death to Saddam." At the dispatch ceremony, held at the Islamic Revolution Committee central headquarters a commander of the committees pointed out the need for more fighting forces on the fronts.

A large number of the IRGC personnel, combat-skilled and trained mobilisation personnel, members of the Islamic Revolution committees, members of the guilds and traders of the bazaars of Bakhtaran provincial towns and districts left for the fronts yesterday and today.

Another Central News Unit report notes that in the past 2 days thousands of tribesmen from Malekshahi and Emam-e Gharb Districts, along with a large number of IRGC members, have left to assist the Islamic fighters. Also a group of lecturers, students and employees of Tehran Teacher-Training College, as well as a group of Khorasan clergymen, left in the past 2 days for the battlefronts. A number of IRGC personnel left Kashan this morning for the fronts, as did the Friday imams of Kashan and Khomeyn, along with a group of Khomeyn residents.

Volunteers From Cities

LD2607083888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Summary] In response to an invitation of the imam of ummah a large number of mobilization forces and IRGC personnel from cities of Chalus, Now Shahr, Mahmudabad, Qa'emshahr, and Babol Sar left for the battle fronts during the past 24 hours. A large number of Ilam's IRGC members left for the fronts at noon today. Fresh forces from Bushehr, Dashti, Dashtestan, Ganaveh, Nahavand, Hamedan, (Masa), East Azarbayjan Province accompanied by a number of clerics from the province; the Rasht Friday imam, accompanied by a number of clerics; and some clerics from Kangavar also left for the fronts during the past 24 hours.

Spokesman Denies Iraqi Residential Areas Shelled

LD2307105888 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) today categorically denied Iraqi claims on Iran's barraging of Bimalik township complex in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province.

He said that although Iran accepted the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 several days ago, Iraqi regime has continued shelling Iranian residential areas in various cities including Piranshahr, Sar Dasht and villages near them. Even in one case on Friday, he said, chemical weapons were deployed on two villages of Zarneh and Sar-e Mil Sofla.

Mentioning that Muslim fighters of Iran have not fired one bullet at Iraqi cities, he labelled Iraqi claims as baseless, and meant to justify their recent mischievous acts. The spokeman also warned international forums of Iraq's continuing war crimes.

Kurds To Continue Struggle Despite Resolution

LD2207165388 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., July 22, IRNA—Iran's acceptance of the Security Council's Resolution 598 will not cause Iraqi Muslims to abandon their Jihad against the Iraqi regime. Iraqi Muslims will continue their struggle against the Ba'thist regime, leader of the Islamic movement of Iraq's Kordestan said here Thursday.

"We will continue our holy war until the annihilation of the Baghdad regime," Sheikh 'Uthman 'Abd al-'Aziz stressed.

He said his people migrated to Iran with the aim of downing the Iraqi regime and that "we will persist on our decision under any circumstances." Other Iraqi Kurds should also continue their campaign, he added.

Referring to the acceptance of the Resolution 598 by Iran 'Abd al-'Aziz said by this move, world people would realize that the Islamic Republic is seeking justice and truth. He once again stressed that Iraqi Muslims should never cease their struggle against the cruel Ba'thist regime.

Cross-Border Combat Operations Detailed

SAIRI Forces Repel Iraq

LD2307170588 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA—An Iraqi offensive in Shatli [placename as received] region, near Talaiyeh, southern fronts, was suppressed by the Muslim combatants Saturday afternoon.

The enemy was beaten back by combatants of Badr Corps 9 affiliated to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI). Iraqi Mojahedin, besides killing and wounding several Ba'thist troops, captured 18 soldiers of Iraq's Al-Ahwaz Brigade.

Iraqi Plane Destroyed

LD2407083688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0817 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces Joint Staff announced that at 0730 this morning the Air Force targeted an aggressor Iraqi aircraft in the western operational theater and blew it up in the skies of our Islamic homeland.

Iraqi Helicopter Downed

LD2407100788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0931 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] According to a report of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a helicopter gunship of the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy in Iraq was hit and destroyed in flight above the southern operational region this morning by the anti-aircraft units of the Islamic Republic's Ground Forces.

Helicopters Halt Advance

LD2407101788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpts] According to a report received a few minutes ago, the brave and heroic pilots of the helicopter-borne infantry of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces halted the enemy's advance and began pushing the enemy back. [passage omitted]

These high-flying eagles carrying out innovative operations and special tactics have mounted 157 sorties so far and have succeeded in inflicting heavy damage and a high number of losses on the enemy forces by applying intense fire on the positions and concentration points of the enemy and also by destroying some of the Saddamites' APC's.

Iraqi Plane Downed in West

LD2407102288 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—Another Iraqi plane was shot down over one of the western fronts today. The enemy plane was downed by Iranian anti-aircraft fire at 13:13 hours (09:43 GMT]. This was the second Iraqi plane downed in the western front today.

Iraqis Retreat From Khushk

LD2407111988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] An operational commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces in the southern operational sector, in an interview with correspondents, announced: The Islamic warriors engaging the aggressive forces of Iraq along the Khushk axis in the southern operational region have caused much confusion and anxiety among the ranks of the Iraqi regime. The enemy forces having left behind a large number of dead and wounded, as well as large quantities of weapons and ammunition, and fled from the area.

2 Iraqi Commanders Killed

LD2407131188 Tehran IRNA in English 1301 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—Commander of the Iraqi Special Division 'Al-Ahvaz' Brigadier General Bariq Najm 'Abdallah [name as received] has been killed by the Muslim combatants in the southern fronts during the recent battles which broke out following renewed Iraqi aggressions against Iran.

Commander of Iraq's Armoured Division 3 Tahir 'Abd al-Rashid had been killed in the fighting by Iranian troops earlier in the same fronts.

Confirming the reports today several Iraqi officers and NCO's, captured by the Mulsim forces, said Brigadier 'Abdallah was supervising operations of his units in Hawr al-Hawizah when he was shot by the Iranian combatants.

The Iraqi commander's body was immediately transferred behind frontlines by Ba'thist agents in order to preserve morale of the Iraqi troops, said the POW's.

Report on Iraqi Defeat in Sumar

LD2407170588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Our correspondent has sent the following dispatch on the defeat of the aggression by the forces of the Zionist regime of Iraq against Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] O you zealous people of Iran, as a result of the bravery and steadfastness of the capable warriors of Islam and the zealous tribes of the region, the resistant and martyr-nurturing city of Gilan-e Gharb was cleansed of the filth of Saddamists.

The capable warriors of Islam, consisting of the IRGC, Armed Forces, and army air units, in a severe clash—which in some areas involved hand-to-hand combat—repulsed the aggression of Iraqi mercenary forces in the Gilan-e Gharb theater of operation, cleansing the city of the filth of their presence.

During the brave battle, over 30 tanks and personnel carriers, as well as 1 enemy armored division, was destroyed and the enemy suffered heavy losses and casualties.

Currently, the capable warriors of Islam are chasing the aggressor Iraqi forces some 10 km outside the city of Gilan-e Gharb.

According to another report the IRGC zealots and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a heroic battle crushed aggressor Iraqi forces in the Sumar region and forced them 25 kilometers back from their positions. At present, heavy clashes between the warriors of Islam and the aggressive Iraqi forces continue in the Sumar and Gilan-e Gharb theaters of operation.

This is the correspondent of the Central News Unit, war fronts. [end recording]

Sumar Fighting Detailed

LD2507082288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0801 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O heroic nation of Iran, please pay attention. Yesterday and last night the fighters of Islam and brave tribesmen from the west of the country, staged extensive offensives and guerrilla operations in the Sumar sector, beyond the resisting town of Gilan-e Gharb, the Abu Zar garrison, and the (Bizel) Heights, against Saddam's aggressor army. They inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the enemy.

Further reports of the relentless battle of the forces of Islam will be brought to your attention.

40 km Reclaimed in Zayd Area

LD2507083088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0746 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Heroic nation of Iran, pay attention! News from the southern operational regions reports that the brave men of Islamic Iran at 0300 today carried out a coordinated and daring attack on the Ba'thist occupation forces' positions at the top of the (Shirdand) channel in the general area of Zayd and inflicted another defeat on the criminal enemy.

In their operations, the fighters of Islam succeeded in purging 40 more kilometers of our Islamic homeland's territory from the presence of the aggressor and inflicted heavy casualties and losses on the aggressive enemy. Two mercenary Iraqi Army brigades were entirely destroyed by the fiaghters of Islam in the general area of Zayd. A large number of the aggressor forces' corpses are now scattered in that region. Among these, the corpses of two battalion commanders can be seen.

Iraqi Forces Driven Back

LD2507084788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0830 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O heroic nation of Iran. According to an IRGC Headquarters report, the brave Ground Forces fighters, assisted by brave tribesmen from Karand-e Gharb, attacked the Ba'thist forces in the (Dasht-e Zahab) sector, driving the aggressor enemy forces out, and forcing them to retreat from our borders.

During the operation, the pagan-fighting forces of monotheism, enjoying the support of the fast-flying eagles of the Iranian Air Force, once again heavily defeated the Zionist forces of Iraq, and inflicted heavy losses and casualties.

7 Iraqi Tanks Destroyed

LD2507091688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O nation of Iran, the pagan-fighting fighters of Islam in the Gilan-e Gharb axis, have again blocked the Saddamist aggression with a wall of resistance and self-sacrifice of the fighting nation of Islamic Iran. They liberated the innocent town of Gilan-e Gharb yesterday afternoon and drove the Ba'thist forces in disgrace out of that town.

In pursuit of the Saddamists last night and today, they killed hundreds of Iraqi troops and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

According to reports, seven tanks of the Zionist enemy were destroyed on that axis by antitank units and three other tanks were captured by the fighters of Islam.

Iraq Bombs 'Civilian' District

LD2507092188 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 25, IRNA—Intruding Iraqi planes bombarded a civilian district near the city of Karand, northeast of Gilan-e Gharb at 08:00 hours (04:30 GMT) this morning. A number of civilians were wounded and some damage was inflicted on agricultural lands in the "Kang Kul" district.

Iraq Occupies 'Central' Cities

LD2507093088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0855 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Brave and heroic ummah of Iran! The Iraqi Ba'thist Zionist enemy during the past few weeks, in view of its aggressive spirit and lack of adherence to international principles and regulations and in view of Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598, once again greedy to conquer parts of our Islamic homeland has embarked on actions in the south and west of the country. This onslaught was defeated in some sections of our country as a result of the steadfastness and bravery of your movement, you, the Islamic ummah.

In the southern region, in which the enemy had conquered the cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan, the attack was defeated and kilometers of our Islamic homeland's territory was liberated. The enemy was driven back to the southern border strip, and only 50 sq kms of the Zayd area of the border strip is now in the hands of the enemy.

However, in the central area, over 4,000 sq kms—rom Mehran to Qasr-e Shirin and outside the gates to the city of Gilan-e Gharb, including the five cities of Mehran, Naft-e Shahr, Sumar, Qasr-e Shirin and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab—are in enemy hands, and in the Faqqeh region over 500 sq kms are under the occupation of the aggressor enemy.

The war is continuing with intensity in the south and in the west. The western war fronts are awaiting your assistance, you the brave and courageous nation of Iran. The enemy must once again sustain a heavy defeat so that it never again entertains the idea of invading the territory of Islamic Iran.

Iraqis Flee Heights; 300 Killed

LD2507095288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0924 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Heroic nation of Iran! In a severe engagement involving the forces of the army of Islam on the (Bizel) Heights, more than 300 Iraqi aggressor army personnel have been killed by the capable fighters of Islamic Iran; many have been wounded.

Reports from that region also say the fighters of Islam are (?in pursuit) of the aggressor Iraqi forces who, in the face of the resistance and bravery of the fighters of Islam, are fleeing the operational area. Our fighters succeeded in totally destroying 300 light and heavy enemy vehicles on the other side of the (Bizel) Heights.

Abu Zar Garrison Liberated

LD2507100888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0940 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. Abu Zar garrison in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab sector has been liberated.

According to reports from the Western operational theater, IRGC Ground Forces fighters, in a brave battle, liberated Abu Zar garrison from the Ba'thist aggressors, and inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the enemy.

The antipagan fighters of the forces of monotheism have driven the enemy 10 km from the garrison, and are now destroying the enemy in that sector.

Iraq Retreats From Kushk Area

LD2507101388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0943 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O heroic nation of Iran, please pay attention: Brave Iranian Ground Forces fighters, inspired by the orders of the imam of the ummah and enjoying the enthusiastic support of the self-sacrificing nation, last night and today staged a series of operations, supported by heavy artillery fire, Army aviation helicopters, and fighter-bombers of the forces of Islam.

They dealt repeated blows to the aggressor Iraqi army in the southern operational theater, on the Kushk and Talaiyeh axes. They killed or injured numerous Saddamists, captured dozens of Ba'thist mercenaries, destroyed dozens of enemy armored equipment, and forced the enemy to retreat from the sector.

Iraqis Driven From Gilan-e Gharb

LD2507101488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0941 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Heroic nation of Iran! The brave ones of Islam, while inflicting heavy casualties and losses, have driven the aggressor Iraqi forces 10 kms west of the liberated city of Gilan-e Gharb.

A report received a few moments ago from the operational area of Gilan-e Gharb, notes that the fighters of Islam, consisting of the popular and tribal forces of the province of Bakhtaran, the brave ones of the IRGC and the Army, in a coordinated operational plan, attacked the enemy forces and drove the mercenary Iraqi army 10 kms from the city of Gilan-e Gharb. Severe clashes are continuing on that axis, with the forces of Islam enjoying superiority.

Communique on Recent Operations

LD2507125088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to an Armed Forces General Headquarters Communique:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O ummah of Islam. O combative nation of Iran. Continuing their relentless battle against the aggressor enemy—which embarked last night and today on a widespread invasion aimed at capturing parts of our Islamic homeland—the mighty fighters of Islam dealt heavy blows to the enemy forces.

IRGC fighters, in an operation carried out at 0300 today, attacked enemy positions in the Zayd sector, liberating a further 40 sq km of our Islamic homelands killing or injuring several enemy troops, and setting fire to large quantities of enemy equipment.

Yesterday afternoon and today, in clashes with enemy forces, the fighters of Islam fired heavily on the positions of the deceived Saddamists, destroying 70 percent of the 422d Infantry Brigade and the 1st Commando Brigade of the III Corps and the 45th Infantry Brigade, and an artillery battalion; 80 percent of the 51st and 120th Infantry Brigades and 241st Artillery Battalion; 50 percent of the 8th Division and the 22d Infantry Brigade; 60 percent of the 37th Armored Brigade and 10th Artillery Battalion; totally destroying a commando battalion of the 5th Division; and destroying 90 percent of a commando battalion of the 7th Division.

Also, 50 tanks and dozens of assorted, light and heavy military vehicles of the aggressor Iraqi Army were destroyed. Thousands of enemy troops were killed or wounded.

On the western fronts, heavy battles continue between the forces of Islam and the aggressor enemy forces. On the Qasr-e Shirin, Mehran, Gilan-e Gharb, Sumar, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, and Salehabad sectors, which have been subjected to enemy aggression, the fighters of Islam are continuing to fight the Saddamists.

Last night and today, the forces of Islam bravely cleared Gilan-e Gharb of the filthy presence of the forces of the aggressor Iraqi regime. In a fierce battle they drove them back, after inflicting heavy losses and casualties on them. During the clash, several tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed, while a number were captured intact by our forces.

On the Qasr-e Shirin front the forces of Islam killed 300 enemy troops, and wounded a large number on the Bizel Heights, north of Qasr-e Shirin. More than 30 light and heavy enemy vehicles were destroyed in the clash.

On the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab axis, our fighters engaged the enemy in a fierce battle and captured Abu Zar garrison. They killed hundreds of enemy troops, and drove the enemy back 10 km west of the garrison.

Enemy movements on the (Ferferi) and (Yalebolfat) heights, west of Sar Dasht, were crushed, thanks to the bravery of the forces of Islam. During the clash, IRGC fighters and brave tribesmen from the area killed or wounded a large number of Saddamists, and captured dozens more.

Brave Iranian Air Force pilots, in 26 separate sorties, carried out between the early hours of this morning and 1315, heavily bombed enemy positions, troop concentration points, and armored equipment on the southern and western fronts. After inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the aggressors they all returned safely to base.

Self-sacrificing Army Aviation pilots dealt deadly blows to the feeble enemy, halted the advance of and then pursued the enemy forces. Today, the fast-flying Army Aviation eagles carried out 107 sorties, destroying enemy armored weapons, emplacements, and tanks. They continue their relentless battle.

Vast parts of our Islamic homeland, including Qasr-e Shirin, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, and Sumar, are in enemy hands. The brave and Muslim people of Iran are called upon to go to the battle fronts as soon as possible to defend the honor of Islam and the homeland.

[Signed] The General Command Headquarters

Iraqi Plane Downed 25 Jul

LD2507154088 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA—According to latest news reaching here from western sector, Iranian fighters downed an Iraqi warplane over Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region (Bakhtaran Prov.) at 17:30 hours local time (14:00 hrs GMT) today. No report is yet available on the fate of the Iraqi pilot.

Iraqis Hit by Surprise Attacks

LD2507164088 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Ilam, July 25. IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants operating in league with local tribesmen launched a series of surprise attacks in Mehran operational region over last night and today, repulsing the enemy's aggression in the western fronts.

In the course of the operation, Iran's Muslim combatants using heavy and light weapons, set ablaze a number of Iraqi tanks, personnel carriers, and armored equipments, killing or wounding dozens of enemy forces.

The Iranian troops also seized intact a munition-loaded vehicle of the invading Iraqi forces.

Iraq Bombs 6 Villages 25 Jul

LD2507193388 Tehran IRNA in English 1924 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 25, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes bombarded three villages in Eslamabad-e Gharb and Karand (Bakhtaran Prov.) Monday evening, martyring and wounding 26 women and children.

The enemy planes also bombarded three other villages in the region today afternoon, martyring or wounding a large number of innocent villagers.

Further on Iraqi Losses

LD2507194688 Tehran IRNA in English 1904 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA—According to the latest report, released by the General Command Headquarters of the Armed Forces, Iranian forces purged suburbs of the liberated town of Gilan-e Gharb, western Iran, of Iraqi troops during last night and today.

During the clashes, the remnants of the badly-beaten Ba'thists were driven back behind the internationally-recognized borders suffering substantial casualties and losses. Several enemy tanks and armoured personnel carriers were also destroyed and many others seized intact by Iran's heroic combatants.

Iranian jet fighters shot down an Iraqi warplane and an enemy helicopter in the western operational theater today. Another Iraqi jet was blasted out of the sky in the western fronts at 17:22 hours local time (13:52 GMT) by Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

In the northwestern border region, Iran's Muslim combatants in a series of ambushes killed or wounded hundreds of enemy soldiers and inflicted heavy losses on them.

In a lightning attack Iranian forces routed the 3rd Battalion of Brigade 19 of Iraq's 7th Division, killing at least 360 of its personnel. Corpses of several Iraqi officers including a company commander identified as Nafis Matar Jasim [name as received] are seen among the killed.

Over the afore-said period, the 2nd Iraqi Battalion of Brigade 841 of the 7th Division, deployed in the northwestern fronts, suffered over 200 casualties. Corpses of Major Ahmad Siddiq Hasan and Hamid Yusuf Awad are among enemy soldiers killed by Iranian forces.

At least 400 Iraqis were killed or wounded and 22 others captured in a northwestern theater when their positions were stormed by Muslim combatants. The heroic forces included some units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Gendarmes, local tribesmen and Kurdish peshmerga.

Over 10 enemy tanks, 14 artillery pieces, some motor pools and a large amount of other military hardware were also set ablaze by Iranian artillery fire over the past three days.

In the early hours Monday, Muslim forces of Iran stormed Iraqi positions in heights overlooking Sar Dasht, northwestern Iran, killing and wounding a large number of enemy soldiers and driving the others out of Iranian territory.

Iraqi Troops Occupy Karand-Gharb

LD2607055088 Tehran IRNA in English 0544 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 26, IRNA—Iraqi forces crossed Iraq-Iran border west of Eslamabad-Gharb in Bakhtaran Province at dawn today, and thrust into the Iranian city of Karand-Gharb despite being badly hit by Muslim forces elsewhere. Clashes now continue between Iraqi troops and Muslim combatants in Karand-Gharb. The Iranian troops are now preparing for an overall counter- attack.

Counteroffensive Launched

LD2607063688 Tehran IRNA in English 0632 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 26, IRNA—Muslim combatants of Iran including Armed Forces, Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Basij (mobilisation) Militia and

tribal guerrillas launched on a counter-offensive at 07:00 hours local time Tuesday (03:30 hours GMT) to push out Iraqi troops from Karand/Gharb in Bakhtaran Province.

Hundreds of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded at the early hours of the counterattack. Local residents who have evacuated their homes for their safety are now helping Muslim combatants in and near the city to dislodge Iraqi troops from the city.

Salehabad Liberated From Iraq

LD2607070388 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Ilam, July 26, IRNA—Muslim combatants of Iran liberated Salehabad in Ilam Province from the Iraqi occupation today.

The Muslim combatants of Iran being supported by the army aviation service and air force attacked enemy positions Monday killing or wounding a large number of Iraqi troops and capturing many of them.

The Muslim combatants of Iran are still pushing enemy forces back to the international borders.

'Heavy Fighting' Noted

LD2607083688 Tehran IRNA in English 0822 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—The Iraqi enemy in its attempts to occupy more Iranian territory, has reportedly deployed new troops and hardware in the western fronts since last night.

In one of the operational axes, enemy troops occupied Eslamabad-e Gharb, west of Bakhtaran and intended to advance further but were checked thanks to the brave resistance of Iranian combatants assisted by the brave tribesmen and other popular forces.

Heavy fighting is going on with Iranian forces determined to liberate Eslamabad-e Gharb and other areas under Iraqi occupation.

According to latest reports reaching here the enemy has sustained heavy casualties and losses.

'Large Number' of Iraqis Killed

LD2607094888 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—Muslim combatants of Iran killed a large number of Iraqi military men and wounded others on Lahni [placename as received] Heights in the Shiler [placename as received] operational theater between Baneh and Marivan opposite Iran's Kordestan Province inside Iraqi territory Monday night. Many were also taken captive.

1,500 Iraqis Killed

LD2607105388 Tehran IRNA in English 1049 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—Three battalions of Iraqi Armoured Division 17 were destroyed by 50 per cent in Salehabad, Ilam Province Tuesday morning.

Muslim forces of Iran who are mopping up the neighbourhood south of Salehabad have killed more than 1,500 enemy forces and injured scores of others. The Iranian forces are reportedly heading towards enemy positions and are forcing them to retreat from the region.

10 Bombing Missions Noted

LD2607105088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1028 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Courageous nation of Iran, please pay attention. The brave and proud pilots of the air force of our country have once again poured the fire of their wrath on the Ba'thist aggressors and smashed the aggressor's forces.

According to our reports, the pilots of the air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the course of 10 separate missions, at 0955, 1055, 1123, 1128, 1130, 1145, 1200, 1207, 1210, and 1830 intensely bombed troop concentration points, armor, and fortifications of the aggressor Iraqi regime's forces in the southern and western operational sectors. After crushing the enemy forces and after inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the Saddamists, they all returned safely to their bases. We hail the brave and proud pilots of the air force.

Attack Near Mehran Repelled

LD2607110688 Tehran IRNA in English 1056 GMT 26 July 88

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—Muslim forces of Iran repelled an Iraqi attack in Mehran operational region Tuesday morning smashing an Iraqi brigade.

Iraqi Brigade 842 launched an attack from Torsh Abeh [name as received], east of Mehran which was repelled by Iran with the brigade suffering 40 per cent damage and heavy losses and casualties. Scores of Iraqis were captured by the Iranian forces.

Planes Drop Chemical Bombs

LD2607110788 Tehran IRNA in English 1047 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., July 26, IRNA—Several Muslim combatants were wounded as Iraqi aircraft dropped chemical bombs on their positions east of Ahvaz-Khorramshahr highway today. The Muslim combatants immediately applied counter-chemical devices in the affected areas.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Village

LD2607120288 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 26 Jul 88

[text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., July 26, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes bombed "Gashki" village on the outskirts of Kamyaran town in this northwestern province before noon Tuesday, wounding three villagers. Some losses were also inflicted on farm lands.

A number of enemy jet fighters also violated the airspace of this provincial capital at 12:27 hours local time (08:57 GMT) today but were forced to flee when faced with Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

Communique on Military Successes

LD2607125988 Tehran IRNA in English 1215 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—At least 1,500 Iraqi soldiers were killed and hundreds of others wounded during the liberation of Salehabad region in western Iran last night, by Iranian Muslim combatants, according to a military communique today.

The communique, released by the General Command Headquarters of the armed forces, said three battalions of Iraq's 17th Armoured Division were routed, 70 Ba'thist soldiers taken captive and remnants of the badly-beaten personnel of the division driven back.

Some 25 Iraqi tanks and several enemy vehicles of various size were destroyed by the helicopter gunships of Iranian Army Aviation Service and the army's anti-tank units.

Muslim forces of Iran also stormed the positions of Iraqi battalions under the command of the 7th Division in Shiler Valley [name as received] early Tuesday, killing and wounding over 350 enemy soldiers and capturing 27 others.

Contrary to its false peace claims, the Iraqi regime by employing all its military might, occupied western Iranian town of Eslamabad-e Gharb last night. Iranian combatants are now involved in pitched battles with the enemy occupation troops in eastern parts of the town, it said.

Iranian fighter bombers in 10 separate sorties Tuesday heavily pounded Iraqi positions, troop concentration sites and armoured units in the southern and western operational theaters, inflicitng substantial casualties and losses on the Saddamists. The fighters returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out their bombing missions from 09:55 to 13:30 hours local time (06:25 to 10:00 GMT).

Havaniruz [name as received] helicopter gunships flew 130 combat sorties over the afore-said operational theaters today, destroying dozens of enemy tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

Iran's Muslim combatants by suppressing any movement of Iraqi troops throughout the western operational theater are now driving them back behind the internationally-recognized borders, concluded the communique.

Eslamabad 'Liberated' From Iraq

LD2607162788 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants liberated the western Iranian town of Eslamabad-e Gharb from Iraqi occupation this evening.

Voice of Mojahed Says 'Regime' Suspends Majlis

NC2607114888 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1110 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Following the liberation of the towns of Karand and Eslamabad at the hands of the able Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] and the INLA's advance toward Kermanshah, the Khomeyni regime, in the depths of despondency and abjectness, has taken control of the antipopular Majlis. This action, which indicates the Khomeyni regime's overt fear of being toppled, was announced at exactly 1200 noon [0830 GMT] today, following the announcement of the "Forugh-e Javedan" operations by the Voice of Mojahed radio.

The (?decrepit) Khomeyni regime, which is hearing its death knell sounding, admitted that it had decided to suspend Majlis sessions and activities in order to devote greater attention to the war. The regime's radio did not dare admit to our war of freedom and the dazzling victories of the INLA, including the liberation of the towns of Karand and Eslamabad-e Gharb. It continued to harp on in a dastardly manner, alluding to an "anti-national war".

Beware, for the time for such trickery has passed and the only future for the tottering and decrepit Khomeyni regime is its nemesis and downfall. The flames of the people's fury are raging more than ever. The weapons of the vigilant offspring of the Khalq [Mojahedin-e Khalq] in the INLA, with the people's extensive support, will topple the citadel of the antihuman Khomeyni regime's tyranny!

National Liberation Army 'Victories' Noted

NC2607100088 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0913 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Dear compatriots. Please pay attention to a message from the Mojahed brother Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the new Iranian revolution, commander in chief of the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA], from the headquarters of the "Forugh-e Javedan" [eternal brilliance] operations.

The Mojahed brother Mas'ud Rajavi, commander in chief of the INLA, sent the following message directly from the headquarters of the "Forugh-e Javedan" operations, with congratulations on the INLA's victories of last night and today to all the Iranian people, particularly the heroic people of the hero-nurturing city of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran] and all the struggling, fighting youth all over the country. He asks them to rise up at this historic moment and perform their national and revolutioanry duty by supporting the INLA in toppling the anti-Iranian, antipopular Khomeyni regime.

In his message the INLA commander in chief warns the mercenaries in Khomeyni's service who are bearing arms against Iran and Iranians that they should come to their senses before it is too late and before the flames of the sacred fury of the Iranian people envelop them. Thus they may be safe from the severe retribution that awaits them. They should refrain from serving Khomeyni and from carrying out genocide and murder for a regime on the brink of decline.

The INLA commander in chief warns that, as of now, all those who are serving Khomeyni and committing bloodshed and murder or who open fire on INLA fighters will face the most severe punishment from the heroic Iranian people.

2 Towns Reportedly Liberated

NC2607101688 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0936 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Dear compatriots: Please pay attention. The totterring Khomeyni regime—following the liberation of the towns of Karand and Eslamabad by the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] which received a tumultuous welcome by the people—has been gripped by intense fear and sees its decline approaching by the second. It has resorted to humiliating and repetitive tactics claiming that Iraq has attacked Eslamabad and Karand and has occupied these two towns. Iraq has denied this disgraceful falsehood of the Iranian regime.

Dear compatriots, O heroic people of Iran: The cities and the liberated people of Krand and Eslamabad-e Gharb are now the main witnesses of the Khomeyni regime's disgraceful lies. They are the ones who have given a rousing welcome to the INLA and athe Mojahedin-e Khalq combatants and have fought side by side with them to destroy the antihuman Khomeyni regime's forces and organizations in these two cities.

IRGC Base Seized

NC2607102388 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0950 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Dear compatriots: Please pay attention. We have just received a report from the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] general command headquarters that the INLA combatants, in their victorious advance toward the hero nurturing city of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran], have occupied the training base of the antihuman Khomeyni Guards Corps. The INLA is advancing triumphantly toward Kermanshah!

Saudis Reportedly Arresting Foreign Pilgrims

NC2307190288 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] In the wake of demonstrations by (?hundreds) of Turkish, Bangladesh, Indian, and Pakistani Muslims, as well a number of Western states' and Arab Gulf Muslims held between Al-Jihad Square and Bab 'Abd al-'Aziz in the holy city of Mecca yesterday, reliable sources have stated that the Hijaz security police have entered and searched several houses inhabited by Kuwaiti and Turkish pilgrims, arresting several of them.

The Saudi Government has this year employed 3,000 Egyptian, 6,500 Turkish, and 7,500 Moroccan security men to suppress demonstrations.

It is worth noting that the Al Sa'ud regime, which fears demonstrations by those who renounce the polytheists, has this year reduced the pilgrim quota of various countries under the pretext of insufficient accommodation and comfort facilities for the pilgrims when, in fact, most houses and hotels are empty.

Search for Airbus Recorder Continues

LD2407185988 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., July 24, IRNA—A search for finding the black box of the U.S. downed Iranian Airbus started in the regional waters Sunday with deployment of a new detector device from Britain.

An aviation official announcing the above here, expressed hope that the search will bear fruit despite the strong seasonal currents in this part of the Persian Gulf.

On July 3, the USS Vincennes downed the regular flight IR 655 martyring all 290 passengers on board, including 66 children and 38 foreigners.

The finding of the black box holds the key to the last minute talks between the martyred pilot and control tower, and other vital details of the plane's altitude and exact position, at the time of the unmanly U.S. missile attack. So far 182 bodies of the martyred passengers have been found.

Pakistan

Bhutto To Challenge Partyless Poll Ruling

BK2307091688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] In Pakistan, the opposition leader, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has vowed to challenge in the Supreme Court President Zia's decision to ban political parties from contesting national elections in November.

After an emergency meeting of the 9-party opposition alliance, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, yesterday, Ms Bhutto said President Zia is violating his own 1985 constitution. The opposition alliance will seek a legal and constitutional solution if elections are not held on a party basis. Ms Bhutto said she does not want a confrontation with General Zia, but she will mobilize public opinion to pressurize him to change his mind.

President Holds News Conference, Discusses Parties

BK2307160488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed confidence that a large number of people will cast their votes in the general elections to be held on 16 November this year and they will take part in elections more enthusiastically than they did in 1985.

Addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi for foreign correspondents based in Islamabad today, the president said the silent majority of the people will use their right of franchise to support their candidates and will give a correct verdict. He said it is hoped that the political parties, factions, groups or whatever they are called will not boycott the elections. In this context, he referred to the boycott of the 1985 elections and said those who boycotted those elections had later repented.

He referred to the statements of leaders of certain political parties, who said that they would contest the elections whether they were held on a party or non-party basis. The president said the statements of the political leaders have encouraged him and he believes that these leaders will not repeat the mistake they committed in 1985.

Referring to the role of political parties in the country, the president said they are not political parties in the true sense of the term, as none of these parties comes up to the standards which are essential for a political party. Their status is nothing more than that of pressure groups. Most of these parties have been unable even to elect their officeholders at all levels and thus they have proved themselves ineligible for electoral politics at the national level.

The president cited as examples Turkey and the Federal Republic of Germany where only those parties which secure more than 10 percent of the vote are considered as national parties. If this procedure were applied to Pakistan to determine whether a party was a national party, it would yield highly discouraging results.

President Zia said Pakistan is passing through the initial stage of democratic evolution and he believes that the political parties can cross the evolutionary stages only after the electoral process is repeated time and again. Moreover, he added, political parties come into being only after and not before the democratic process. For the evolution of a stable democracy, it is necessary to strengthen the democratic process before consolidating party policies.

Answering a question regarding the negative reaction of certain political parties to the announcement about the conduct of elections on a non-party basis, the president said he had expected that they would not accept his scheme.

However, he added, this reaction does not have much importance because these factions represent many different people. As for the constitutional status of the elections, it is the responsibility of the Supreme Court to interpret the Constitution.

Answering another question, the president said at present it is his responsibility to promote the democratic process and Islamic values in the country. He said it is his opinion that the foundation of the democratic process should be based on the maximum number of elections in the country, and with this aim in mind he announced the holding of elections in November this year instead of the scheduled date of 1990.

The president said after the 1985 elections, which greatly benefited the country, the holding of elections on a non-party basis once again will not weaken but will strengthen the democratic process.

Unmoved by Opposition Threats

BK2407071488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0637 GMT 24 Jul 88

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, July 24 (AFP)—President Mohammed Ziaul Haq is proceeding with plans for a non-party poll in November, unruffled by the furor his latest move has created among the opposition, which is threatening nationwide protests. General Zia said Thursday that political parties could campaign for candidates standing as individuals, but would not be able to use nationally recognized party symbols in the the elections planned for November 16.

The symbols are important in Pakistan, where the illiteracy rate is high and they are often the only way for voters to identify between competing parties, observers said.

"Political parties are nothing but a source of divisiveness," Gen Zia told foreign reporters at a press conference in Rawalpindi.

He believed political parties had no place in Islamic society where, he said, "there is either a party of God or a party of Satan"—but he stopped short of banning the parties altogether.

Gen. Zia declared that the country would be ruled by Islamic law after dissolving Parliament and sacking the government on May 29.

The opposition, which had boycotted the last elections in 1985, held under martial law, unanimously rejected the latest election decision as a "mischievous act."

Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, convenor of the nine-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), told a news conference Friday that the opposition would launch a struggle to build up pressure against Gen Zia. Ms. Bhutto said the MRD would go to the Supreme Court to have the decision reversed, but did not announce a boycott as the MRD had done in 1985.

Those elections had brought to power Mohammed Khan Junejo and the assemblies Gen Zia abolished in a surprise move on May 29.

Gen. Zia too said he hoped the opposition would not stay away. "They learned their lesson in 1985, I hope they will not repeat their mistake," he said, predicting failure for any plans at protest action. "They cannot bring the people to the streets," he said, adding that he did not believe the mood was right for such action. "As long as the people come out and vote, the spirit of the election is maintained, irrespective of a party or non-party system," he said.

Gen. Zia denied that his aim was to keep Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party out and also that he had chosen November 16 for the polls because Ms. Bhutto is expecting her first child around then.

Most analysts here agree that despite Ms. Bhutto's popularity, it is unlikely the opposition can launch mass protests in a country where uneducated rural populations are the politically determining factor, and Gen Zia continues to project Islam as the fundamental issue in Pakistani politics. Observers feel that most of those running in November will be familiar figures backed by political parties enjoying the support of the government and its machinery.

The chief executives of the country's three provinces are from the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) of which Gen. Zia considers himself "a patron, an admirer and a well-wisher." Efforts are under way to end factionalism within the PML, and the president's supporters have been hinting that the best man to lead the the PML is Gen Zia. Constitutionally, however, Gen. Zia cannot join a political party as long as he remains commander-in-chief of the Army, a post he is due to relinquish in 1990.

A national assembly emerging from a partyless vote is likely to re-elect for five years Gen Zia, who is already the longest serving president of Pakistan, half of whose history has been spent under martial law.

One source of delay for the election may come from the Supreme Court, which, if it accepts the opposition petition, may postpone voting pending a final verdict that may be long in coming. If the court acts quickly and upholds the opposition view, however, it would completely isolate Gen Zia, who already faces criticism from both the local press and left- and right-wing parties, analysts say. Gen. Zia says it is the court's prerogative to interpret, although, he says, "the Constitution is silent" on the electoral system.

But if his plan is disrupted, analysts say he has the option to enforce emergency rule or, once again, place the country under martial law. Gen Zia has also said he could hold a referendum on the issue if it became necessary, and the results of such a vote would overrule any judgement.

Notes 'Interference' in Sind

BK2307161688 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said he is confident that the general elections on 16 November will draw a massive turnout of voters surpassing the enthusiastic participation in the 1985 polls. He was addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi today for foreign correspondents based in Islamabad. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question, the president reiterated that the political parties today are functioning and there was no intention of taking any action to ban their activities. The political parties are allowed to take full part except that the candidates will have to come on their own accord.

Replying to a question about the situation in Sind, the president traced the origins of the problem and said the parochial feelings which have been generated were not because of party or non-party system of elections but because of the economic and political considerations. He recalled that the various communities have been living amicably side by side for 40 years after independence and even before that. The recent unrest owed its origin to elements who wanted to advance their political interests.

He said in fact Pakistan had proof of India's interference in the affairs of Sind, trying to isolate it from the rest of the country. He declared that people of Karachi and Sind

are as patriotic as anyone else and the problem will be soon overcome. He opposed the idea of any step would politically not viable, as it might aggravate the position. [sentence as heard]

Commission Reviews Constituency Delimitation
BK2307142688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] At its meeting in Lahore today, the Election Commission reviewed in detail the various aspects of the work for delimiting constituencies and made policy decisions on basic issues relating to constituencies. The commission made certain changes in its working schedules to ensure that the delimitation of constituencies is completed within the stipulated period set for this purpose.

The commission appointed a committee comprising senior officers to supervise the pace of the work and to keep the commission informed of the situation. The Election Commission will again hold its meeting in Karachi on 31 July. Today's meeting was chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Justice S.A.Nusrat.

Over 20 People Killed as Afghans Shell Town
BK2407153488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1456 GMT 24 Jul 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Chaman, Pakistan-Afghan border, July 24 (AFP)—More than 20 people have been killed in this Pakistani border town in continuing shelling by Afghan tanks, witnesses said Sunday [24 July]. Witnesses said shells were still slamming into shops and houses Sunday, 24 hours after the first barrage Saturday.

The Afghan tanks have fired more than 150 shells in the attack, killing more than 20 people and wounding 22, as well as causing damage to houses, shops, a police station and the local para-military barracks, reliable sources said. Pakistani nationals and Afghan refugees were among the victims, official sources said. Troop casualties were not known.

Pakistani militia fired in reprisal at Afghan artillery units stationed across the border, official sources said.

Saturday's shelling started at 6 a.m. (0100 GMT) and continued until 5 p.m. (1200 GMT). Residents told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the target of the attack was the town's bazaars and residential areas. "They were hitting the residential areas directly," a shopkeeper said.

Witnesses said thousands of people had fled the town Saturday to the safety of the Baluchistan provincial capital, Quetta. Trucks loaded with families carrying beds and belongings were seen on the road to Quetta. Most families returned Sunday but the city's bazaars were deserted. There was little activity on the eve of the biggest Moslem festival Id 'al-Adha, witnesses said.

Chaman, a town of 110,000 people, is only 500 meters (1,650 feet) from the border. The Afghan city of Spin Buldak is about a kilometer (0.6 miles) away.

The attack follows a step-up in fighting between the mujahideen rebels and Afghan troops in Spin Buldak, which guerrilla sources said was in a state of siege.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene on Presidential Polls, Peace Accord
BK2507112288 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene says there is no intention to postpone the presidential elections through a referendum. In a radio and television interview with the minister of state, Dr Anandatissa de Alwis, the president said the government did not want to gain power by a referendum.

Answering a question, the president said that he has not yet decided on seeking a third term as executive president.

On general elections, he said that they will be held before August next year, according to the law. The date will have to be decided by the president in accordance with the Constitution. Mr Jayewardene said that he has not yet made a decision on the matter.

On the Indo-Lanka Peace Accord, the president pointed out that six terrorist groups were opposing the government at that time. All these groups accepted the peace accord. The LTTE opposed the agreement within 1 month. Five other groups have abided by the accord and are now ready to enter the democratic political mainstream. This indicates the change in the situation which existed at the time of signing the accord.

Referring to the provincial councils, the president said these institutions were not established solely because of the peace accord. The idea was mooted by the late Mr S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike. Mr Bandaranaike, as the minister of local government, had also presented legislation to set up provincial councils. The present government later proposed this system at the all-party conference. Mr Jayewardene said that all the parties agreed to this proposal.

Asked about the displaced persons in the Eastern Province, the president pointed out that they can excercise their franchise irrespective of their present place of residence.

Arrangements are being made to allow them to vote in an election, but these facilities cannot be provided to those who are away from the country.

The president also said that resettlement activities in the Trincomalee District are now nearing completion.

He also spoke in detail about persons of the Indian origin who are to be repatriated to India.

Indian Army Intensifies Anti-LTTE Operations

BK2307050588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] has intensified its operation to curb renewed violence and subversive activities of the LTTE in the north and eastern parts of the country.

In Karainagar area of Jaffna Peninsula, two hardcore militants were apprehended. One of them committed suicide. He has been identified as Balachandran, an LTTE group leader of Vadamarachchi.

A PKF spokesman told our correspondent, S. Sudarshanam, that in the Mullaitivu area a militant hideout was raided. In the Alampil coast, a motor boat which attempted to land was challenged and in the exchange of fire some militants were wounded. In the same area, a militant camp was found abandoned.

Curfew was imposed this morning within the municipal limits of the northern town Jaffna following two bomb blasts. One jawan [soldier] was killed. In eastern Batticaloa District, three LTTE men were killed yesterday when they tried to ambush a patrol party.

'Major' LTTE Camp Captured

BK2307163988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] The Peacekeeping Force [PKF] in Sri Lanka today attacked and captured a major LTTE camp in the thick jungles of Mullaittivu District in the eastern part of the island.

A PKF spokesman told our correspondent, S. Sudarshanam, that seven militants were killed and nine wounded in the fighting and large quantities of explosives and ammunition have been seized. Three PKF jawans [soldiers] have been killed in the operation.

In (Shastrikulam), northwest of Vavuniya and in northern Batticaloa, seven LTTE militants were arrested.